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George O'Reilly of the (Irish Bing Crosby Club) with the 'Groaner.'

Personal letter to all members of
THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
&
THE 1930's RECORD SOCIETY

23, Lovaine Place,
North Shields,
Northumberland,
England.

23 - April - 1968

Hello everyone,

Just thought I'd pop in here with a few observations influenced by the current issues and right away I want to say to REG BRISTO, a sincer thank you for continueing to make our GOLDEN YEARS magazine such a fitting tribute to the years it represents - It's no secret to members of the 30's group who have been with it since 1963, the year it was formed in Newcastle on Tyne by Frank Wappatt, that the pitiful issues of those days have been transformed into really magnificient volumes of nostalgic and memorable reading - a highlight of the current issue for me being the remarkable diary of KEN HOYLE, fantastic to read Ken's account of his early visits to the Music Halls in the 30's - A big thankyou too to CAM SMITH for supplying some supurb original sketches from the pages of the early 30's magazine RHYTHM - beautiful copies have been obtained for the curent issue of the band line-up of such luminaries as HARRY ROY and DUKE ELLiNGTON - thanks to Cam we have a two year supply of these in hand.

Destined to reap the plaudits of members of both our clubs is New York's FRED ROMARY. When I first saw the name and the actions of Fred Romary, I said to myself this leading light of THE CROSBY COLLECTOR will surely reach the line-up of our groups - I was'nt wrong - Fred Romary is now a major driving force behind the propsed club activity. Both "BING" and "THE GOLDEN YEARS"MAGAZINES can say a very big thank you to Fred and I can tell you the cover of the next issue will boast a wonderful cover dedicated to a man who is perhaps the most beloved of all British vocalists, the late AL BOWLLY

From Canada JEAN PAUL FRERAULT sent a whole pile of sheet music covers featuring the legendary Bing. two wonderful new ones appear in this issue of BING and take us right back to the 30's and scenes from the memorable Crosby starrers MISSISSIPPI and ANYTHING GOES, and RON BOSLEY and ALAN LURIE continue their MOVIE FILE in this issue also, this time a wonderful three page illustrated feature on Bing's Academy Award winning film of 1944, GOING MY WAY.

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE CONVENTION - SUNDAY 26th MAY 1968 - NORTH SHIELDS
A cordial invitation is extended to all members of our two clubs to the annual Convention of the ICC at my home on the above date - Though the prog in the main will feature CROSBYANA of all periods, a spot will be found to cater for other luminaries of the show world of the 30's etc. Personal tape greetings from many international collectors will be played, among them JOHN SCOTT TROTTER, HOLLYWOOD. KEITH HYDE, AUSTRALIA. JEAN RAUL FRERUALT, CANADA, SAMUAL STERNBERG, ISRAEL, JOHNNY JONES, N. IRELAND, GEORGE O' REILLY, EIRE. and FRANK STEINER, CALIFORNIA. From NEW YORK, FRED ROMARY is sending a special tape conveying greetings to the ICC from many US show personalities - From HOLLYWOOD has come a wonderful 10 minute greeting from our Hon President, BING CROSBY himself. The meeting will open officially at 4pm, but members can arriv anytime after 2pm - a cover charge of 2/6 should be included for each member and their guest who will be attending, and I should receive your advice not later than THURSDAY MAY 23 in order that Alma can make the neccessary catering plans.

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Though the responce to our advert fund has not been as gratifying as we would have wished, nevertheless we are very grateful to the following members for their appreciated donations - AUSTIN CLEGG 6/-;JOHNNY TELFER 5/-;BILL PEARCE 10/-;MR B FARROW 5/-
MR BROWNE 9/-;VIC GILMORE 5/-;FRANK HATWELL 5/-;DON LOVE 20/-;DOUG WILKINS 10/-;
JACK ANDREWS 6/-; PETER CARPENTER 10/-;MICHAEL CRAMPTON 5/-;WALTER LAMBERT 10/-;
COLIN PUGH 10/-;HARRY FULMER 4/-;LESLIE GAYLOR 7/6;JOHNNY JONES 15/-; JACK SOUTHER 6/-
JACK GREAVES 3/-;CHARLES LEDWICH 7/-;JOHNNY JOYCE 5/-; total of £8-3-6; the adverts selected will be advised in the next issue- at the time of writing FILMS AND FILMING looks a good bet - the only trouble with the usual cash limitations is finding the right spots to advertise in, whilst at the same time watching the limited recources.

Hope to meet many of you at my home on May 26th, you can be sure of some of the usual Northern hospitality with a generous helping of 'Mr C' - kind regards, Frank Murphy

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE - APRIL DISC SUPPLEMENT

Members are advised that the information contained in this leaflet is strictly private and is not transferable - these private club releases being only available via registered members of our clubs - This leaflet is issued in strictly limited form to selected members only. ALL ORDERS SHOULD BE SENT DIRECT TO FRANK MURPHY

Members are asked to note that the folowing issues are PRESSINGS. All orders must be pre-paid by the closing date of JUNE 1st - delivery three weeks from that date.

ICC VOL 8 - BING CROSBY IN THE MACK SENNET DAYS 7"LP 33⅓ Price 24/-(3dollars 50c a rare collection of early Crosbyana including many sought after collectors items - DREAM HOUSE. JUST ONE MORE CHANCE. FOR YOU, I'D CLIMB THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN. WHEN I TAKE MY SUGAR TO TEA. IT MUST BE TRUE. WRAP YOUR TROUBLES IN DREAMS. I SURRENDER DEAR. AT YOUR COMMAND.

ICC VOL 9 - THE 1930's SALUTES DENNY DENNIS 7"LP 33⅓ Price 24/- (3dollars 50c During the 30's and 40s Denny Dennis became a great favourite with British audiences who affectionately dubbed him "Britains Bing Crosby" We are proud to be able to offer this record of many sought after Denny tracks - YOU APPEAL TO ME. HEAVENLY PARTY. OUR LOVE IS HERE TO STAY. THE MEANEST THING YOU EVER DID. WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN. LOVE WALKED IN.

ICC VOL 10 BING CROSBY'S PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE I.C.C.'s 26th MAY CONVENTION - 1968
7" EP 45 Price 20/- (3dollars.
Bing talks for 10 minutes about his past and current plans and speaks with affection of his warm regard for the club, mentioning many leading members and associates by name

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In answer to many requests we wish to advise members that a master tape is being prepared of ALL of Bing's personal messages to the club over the years - and we hope in due course to issue an LP featuring these. Re-issues are also planned of the HOLLYWOOD PALACE EP featuring CABARET, SUNRISE SUNSET etc and we will of course be continueing the HOLLYWOOD PALACE EP'S also.

Ref ICC Vol 9 - This is our first non-Bing issue, and is issued courtesy of a leading member of the 30's group from Yorkshire - future releases of other 30's artists will be reflected in the success of this issue.

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
presents
"BING"
Issue No 10 — MAY.5 1968:

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LATE-NEWSITEMS

Have you seen that interesting travel poster on British railway stations for MAITOBA-CANADA - the group of people depicted almost certainly includes Bing... It is with regret that we must announce that the scheduled meeting with JOHN SCOTT TROTTER on June 26th has been cancelled - unfortunately John has had to re-arrange his schedules which now means a much earlier visit to England - Because we feel the time available will not permit us to make satisfactory arrangements befitting a person of John's calibre., the ICC will await a future opportunity to host it's celebrated Hon Member.....Members of the ICC who also subscribe to THE1930's RECORD SOCIETY will be interested in the news that two highly interesting albums are shortly due on MFP - THE MAGIC TOUCH OF CARROLL GIBBONS MFP1230 and THE HITS OF NOEL GAY MFP1236 with fabulous names of the 30's like HUTCH "Love Makes The World Go Round"..HARRY ROY "Hey Little Hen"..JOE LOSS "Run Rabbit, Run" and other great items - the first album is due on May 24th, the second on June 28th...MCA will release a Crosby album later this year with a cover photo supplied by the ICC.....Bing, Kathryn and the children, Harry, Mary Frances and Nathaniel are at present vacationing at Las Cruces - in early June Bing returns to Hollywood to host two big benefit shows, after which he joins Trader Vic and other friends for an African safari visiting Kenya, after which in mid-August Bing hopes to return via England where he hopes to see some horses he has an interest in, running - Bing sends his best regards and those of Kathryn and the children, to all members of the club (excerpt Bing's personal tape for the ICC convention-May 26th-North Shields) -----Empire Cinema Jarrow - May 2nd - 740 Bingo players applauded the announcment by your editor that today was Bing's birthday -a short extract from one of Bing's personal messages was played over the loud speakers and a hushed audience was very impressed indeed....While in Kenya, Bing hopes to visit with co-star of THE COUNTRY GIRL William Holden who has a posh country club out there.....

UNDERCOVER JOB

by FRED REYNOLDS

Bristo and Reynolds in sackcloth with at least the usual quantity of ashes; Reynolds and Bristo deep in humiliation - or at any rate Reynolds is and Bristo will be when he reads this. And there it was staring us in the face, as one might say, all the time. (All right, I shall be getting to the point in a minute). As for crafty, crafty Murphy words fail me or nearly so, which illustrates conclusively how demoralised I am. I would never in my wildest dreams have accused Frank of subtlety but this was a master stroke - a "throw away" of the first order. My first thoughts, after the revelation, were of organising an ostracism of the ingenious Murphy who with one deft move had completely bamboozled at least two people whose brilliance regularly enhances these pages. (Control yourselves, I shall shortly come to the nub). It is no exaggeration to say that Murphy's Christian name is, on this occasion, about as appropriate as kippers with cream and no thanks to him that I discovered what he was up to. I wondered at first if he had acted from a natural, cherubic innocence but the evidence of Machiavellian design is overwhelming. (You have been very patient and I will now, as you will see, put you in the picture).

No matter how diligently you search through the pages of the January issue of the magazine you will seek in vain for any reference to the cover. For a cover such as this the silence can be described only as sneaky. Holding the magazine at normal reading distance I could see only an unco-ordinated pottage of black and white on which Frank's unexpressed hopes, so far as I was concerned, instantly foundered. Scene two: a few days later I received a letter from Reg Bristo the postscript to which revealed that he too had some aesthetic doubts about the cover design. In my reply to Reg I quipped lightly and shallowly that Frank, having spilled printing ink on the stencil, had persuaded his children to ride their bicycles over it to create a modern canvas. All I could distinguish was the shape of a pipe which I supposed was part of the surrealistic effect and even turning the book upside down (may Murphy forgive me) made no better sense. So to scene three and the denouement: less than a week later I received a 'phone call from Frank Hatwell who, during the course of the conversation, made casual reference to the cover picture saying that he thought it was very good. Now I have known Frank a long time as a man of good sense and practicality and I wondered if he had been overdoing things lately. On his assurance, however, that he was feeling quite well I afterwards took another look at the cover, this time from a distance of about four feet, and found that the picture fell neatly into visual pattern and proportion to form a very effective likeness of Mr. Crosby.

For those of you, and there may be someone somewhere, who has no more comprehension than I had let me give you a clue. When viewing the cover do so from a distance of four or five feet and look for a full-face. The pipe is misleading; jutting out to the left it may wrongly lead one to assume that the face is in profile.

Some of you may remember that a few years ago a popular Sunday newspaper printed a picture taken from an aeroplane flying over the Alps. The dark shadows of the peaks thrown across the snow produced the effect of a "face" of Christ - but only when one became orientated with the whole scale and form. The magazine cover is in much the same style. The curious thing is that once you have the correct perspective you wonder why you were too obtuse to see it the first time. No, I shall not forgive the deceitful Frank Murphy until I am assured that at least a hundred other readers were no less astigmatical than Reynolds and Bristo.

FERD REYNOLDS

FRED ROMARY reviews THE NIGHT OF THE CENTURY

.....Road To Madison Square Garden....

As Associate Editor of the Crosby Collector, some loyal ICC members may think I'm picking daisies in the other fellows back yard.....but due to the importance of the opening of the new MADISON SQUARE GARDEN this past Feb 11th 1968, I may be forgiven. Especially when the master BING CROSBY and his pal BOB HOPE were the chaps to cut the ribbon on a new world of entertainment.

This evening called THE NIGHT OF THE CENTURY proved to be just that...a night of the century for it offered Bing and Bob in the round, Singing, talking, fooling around, kidding about the past 30 years of their friendship and those beloved Road films. Hope as host was his usual excellent self but when the two pros got together it was the same magic that thrilled and brought laughter to faces ached with pain of war in the 30's and 40's. Bing and Bob did'nt seem more than 40 years old and moved with the youth of a twenty year old. Les Brown and his fine orchestra were never better and the audience knew Bing had rehearsed and rehearsed and rehearsed for this show of shows. His voice rang clear and he was even able to reach for some high notes.

Both Hope and Crosby what this night meant most of all. It was a tribute to the U.S.O. for which both served so faithfully for so many years. The tickets were $250.00 each but these well to do people around me would gladly have paid ten times as much to hear Bing sing his replies to Bob's classic gags. Bob who is Hollywood's most traveled citizen played host to many personalities which included Pearl Bailey Barbara Eden, a 100 voice Military Academy Glee Club, not to mention illuminaries of the sports world, public figures and polititians. Bing and Bob played their best to 20,000 seats, crowded beyond belief dorrways and aisles. Each and every one of us in the audience knew we would never see the likes of this evening again and I'm sure all were moved by Hope's pointed comments on the state of the world today. Hope and Crosby became this eve, citizens of the world.

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* Fred Romary continues *
* ====================== *
* JUST ONE MORE CHANCE *
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As the musical evergreen states JUST ONE MORE CHANCE is all that is needed for the talented young, as well as the equally talented pros, who have been moved aside by 'the beat, As it goes on Movement. One such a case is actor, singer STEVE MASON, a veteran of many musical changes, if they can be called that. Steve, who can frighten any Crosby, Columbo enthusiast with his uncanny similiar-true life voice has been a favourite in clubs and TV around the eastern United States for a few seasons feels the time is now right to give the people back the great songs of by gone decades. He feels people are ready toaccept the greats of show business, standard songs, and great composers, once again. It is my opinion that they are also.

It was ironic that Mason came to mind the same weekend that the Groaner wandered in to do his Madison Square Garden stint with Road mate Bob Hope. Thursday morning the 8th as I downed peach brandy, scrambled eggs, and black death (coffee) CBS radio the station which tells one through the magic of broadcasting the news of the past day, and also that I'm a fool to leave the house in the first place, plays for the most part good current pop music between volcanic eruptions and gorilla warfare. This particular a.m. they aired STEV MASON's JUST ONE MORE CHANCE which set me off for the day. You see there's a theory that when people speak, the sounds are re-corded in the air and float around in time and space for ever and ever. At this moment the voice of Columbo had found it's way into Masons throat.

Above I stated 'Ironic',.....well, Ihad two things on my mind, the first being unsuccessful in obtaining tickets to the Crosby, Hope show, and the second going to the office. Steve's magnificient recording only accented my long day to be.

cont on page 6.

FRED ROMARY ***
continues ***

The recording prayed on my mind and by Friday morning the blues had really settled in. Somewhat ready to accept my fate, CBS was tuned out and Mason's two LP's were spun on the old turntable.

Deciding not to phone the chamber of horrors and taking in the mornings sub-zero weather, passing piles of uncollected garbarge, I reached my destination only to find a message to call the Crosby's at the Sherry Netherlands Hotel. The call was a private affair, at least for the minute, but still no tickets to THE NIGHT OF THE CENTURY. It was a bolt from out of the blue as many readers will now know that tickets walked in and bellied up to my desk at the last minute. Again the Mason albums started running through my mind, only happily now.

On Saturday the 10th, along with pals from RCA Victor I checked into the Crosby, Hope rehearsals that were going on all day and night at the new Garden. After renewing of old friendships with Bing and Bob and their various staffs, I dropped the usual newspaper-mans questions on them. Satisfied with what I had taken down Bing and I took a breather and just sat and talked occasionally. Bing's foot long cigar was more than half smoked by this time. Eventually the spotty conversation turned to talent of today, and who is a 'commer in the racket' One such question on my part was how do you rate Steve Mason?

DIALOGUE WITH BING:

BING He's (Steve Mason) very good, honest in what he does. Larry and myself have heard his albums. He's got good timing and breath control. He's relaxed on wax. This is important....people don't want to feel tense when listening to ballads.

FRED Do you think he has a chance?

BING Yes, especially if he's handled properly. He's enjoyed any number of successes, and there's no reason why he should'nt continue. We were together for awhile Friday over at the Diplomat. His energy reminded me of the spark Michael Holiday had.

FRED What does Mason do to push himself now?

BING To impress the people these days...he needs to do some contempory material You know, things like Modern Millie, Mame, My Cup Runneth Over. People need the link between the style and todays songs. Tunes like these also go well as album titles. Look at Armstrong and Hello Dolly, His albums old and new are winners at the starting gate now.

Bing was summoned by an NBC staffer and we parted company until his next break -

I've been digging thro gh my files and here are some interesting clippings on Steve

(CLIPPING INCLUDED)

.....I guess to button up this less than Press-Club award piece it would be good to suggest to the record manufacturers on the record scene ('Give Steve Mason a listen') his albums would be just right for their markets on the European scene ACE OF HEARTS should especially give them a spin. Mr Mason is in possession of all his original masters at this time. Note. first pressings were made by Decca Records USA - Anyone interested in contacting this top performer, with a show business memory as long as your arm could write to him - STEVE MASON INDUSTRIES, 2716 Decatur Avenue, Bronx 10458, New York, USA.

STEVE MASON 45's

SWEET GEORGIA BROWN/AUF WIEDERSHEN MY DEAR
JUST ONE MORE CHANCE/CALL ME DARLING

STEVE MASON albums

STEVE MASON SINGS CROSBY AND COLUMBO MLP 100 STEREO

JUST ONE MORE CHANCE/IF I HAD YOU/I FOUND A MILLION DOLLAR BABY/YOU CALL IT MADNESS/ A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND/OUT OF NOWHERE/I DON'T KNOW WHY/APRIL SHOWERS/CALL ME DARLING/RAMONA/WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT/ BALLIN THE JACK.

THE CROONER..SONGS THAT MADE THE HEART FLUTTER IN THE 20's and 30's MLP 1003

I SURRENDER DEAR/YOU TRY SOMEBODY ELSE/ HOW LONG WILL IT LAST/YOU'RE MY EVERYTHING/ WITHOUT A WORD OF WARNING/WHEN I LOST YOU/ I'M A FOOL TO WANT YOU/AUF WIEDERSHEN MY DEAR/ROCKABYE YOUR BABY/AFTER YOU'VE GONE/SAY IT IS'NT SO/JUST FRIENDS.

All selections are done with a splendid group of musicians known as the JOHNNY SCALA QUINTET

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Our thanks to Fred Romary for this excellent article - Steve Mason sounds like quite a guy and we look forward to more news on this interesting singer in due course -

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SNIPPETS from THE ROAD TO HONG KONG campain book

Bing Crosby was welcomed to Britain by a barrage of hero worship. The press queued up to meet him,. Photographers dogged his every step and fans arrived by the car-full at the gates of Shepperton Studios, many of them just wishing to shake the "Old Groaner" by the hand.

In reminiscent mood on the set of THE ROAD TO HONG KONG Bing Crosby recalled an amusing incident during the height of his fame in the late 30's - He entered a radio competition to find a singer who sounded most like Bing Crosby - "Just for the hell of it I disguised myself with a moustache and beard, assumed another name and entered the competition singing quite naturally"

.....he came 3rd....!

One of the funniest days on the set of THE ROAD TO HONG KONG was when comedy actor Peter Sellers arrived to join the films many guest stars. He had not met Crosby and Hope before but soon even the ponderous and quieter Crosby was doubled up at Sellers ad-libs.

Dave King said after playing the part of a Chinese restaurant proprietor "I would have accepted a walk-on part just to have worked with Crosby and Hope

Bing Crosby takes his work and his fans seriously. No doubt he could retire but he enjoys himself and is honest enough to admit it. And he appreciates the fan worship. "England has the most loyal fans in the whole world" he said appreciatively.

IF YOU'VE ENJOYED THESE SNIPPETS FROM the ROAD TO HONG KONG campain book AND.....YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ MORE - take part in the following simple and free competition and you might win the full campain book on this Road film which contains some excellent photos and stories on Bing and his co-stars in the film -

"BING AND BOB IN HIGH OLD FORM"

???????????????????????????? add a line to follow "please"

Send as many entries as you like ON POSTCARDS ONLY PLEASE together with your name and address - direct to Frank Murphy - closing date JULY 1st. (winner notified) and the winning entry together with a selection of the runners up will appear in the next issue - July issue of BING competition will feature the campain book for ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS.

The Forties

by Bert Day

Just the other day, I had a very interesting and enlightening conversation with a man who has spent the whole of his working life in the record business; this gentleman was a representative for a major record company in 1925 - and that was a very long time ago - even before Bing cut his first wax. We covered many aspects of the record trade, especially the re-issued material on the budget price L.P.'s Music for Pleasure, Hallmark, Wing, Marble Arch, The Two Aces, Hearts and Clubs, etc. I suggested to him, that with all these budget price labels and the other 100 odd labels now available, that all periods of the recorded years of music were well catered for. "Not the forties" he said, "the forties are the most neglected period for re-issues. You check and see if I'm not right." So I did just that and do you know, I believe that he is right. It would appear that the songs that Bing recorded during the forties, with the exception of the songs featured in the films of the period which were later re-issued on the 15 L.P. set Bings Hollywood, not many of the remaining recordings have ever been re-issued on micro-groove records in this country.

During the first six years there are well over fifty titles which include some very hard to get material. During this period, America had a recording ban from August 1942 to September 1943 when not one title was recorded by Bing, or any other artist for that matter.

Brunswick have re-issued two L.P.s on LAT 8369 & 8370 "The Forties" and "The Late Forties"; these are the original recordings of the period with various artists with Bing singing one song on each L.P.

Of the other songs of the period, I see that the American pianist, Roger WILLIAMS, had two L.P.s "Songs from the Fabulous Forties" Volumes 1 & 2; these were new recordings and are now deleted.

Our own Vera Lynn has re-recorded two L.P.s called "Songs from the Blitz" and "More Songs from the Blitz"; these appear to be the only two vocal L.P.s devoted to the period but here again these are not the originals.

Apart from an odd song here and there on re-issued material, there does not seem to be any full albums devoted to the Songs of the Forties and this is a great pity because some of them are really great numbers and standards now. What a wonderful two volume set the following titles would make for BING and the Collectors:-

Devil May Care	(25/2/40)	I'd know you anywhere	(3/12/40)
Dolores	(23/12/40)	A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square	(14/ 6/41)
Skylark	(24/ 1/42)	Sweetheart of Sigma Chi	(14/ 6/41)
Do you care	(24/10/41)	Don't break the spell	(5/ 7/41)
Miss you	(24/ 1/42)	Sleigh ride in July	(19/ 7/44)
Mandy is two	(24/ 1/42)	Lamplighters Serenade	(26/ 1/42)
More & More	(11/12/44)	Prove it by the things you do	(13/9/45)
Day by Day	(13/ 9/45)	By the light of the silvery moon	(9/ 7/42)
Sierra Sue	(22/ 3/40)	The Bombardier song	(1/ 6/42)
Iowa	(17/ 7/44)	But not for me	(9/ 7/42)
Angels of Mercy	(24/ 1/42)	Why do I like you	(3/ 3/45)
Poinciana	(11/10/43)	Hello Mom	(27/ 7/42)

I have included the two numbers which were only limited editions, "Angels of Mercy"and "Why do I like you? not only because of their desireability but the nostalgia that songs from the war years bring.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (part one)

BRENDA MILES writes from Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, England
I must say how pleased I was with the souvenir set of photos from A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH, some of them were really excellent - you do have a satisfied customer here.

HARRY FULMER writes from New York, USA
Although I have'nt ordered any of the latest discs from you I would still like to get the listings just in case there might be something there to complete my Crosby collection - he sure has given me many hours of great enjoyment and my life will not be complete until I can meet the one and only.

CHARLIE WARD writes from Barnes High Street, London SW13, England.
I have recently purchased a Bing Crosby Classics LP on the HALLMARK label, it's wonderful value at 12/6, also Paul Whiteman's LP on MFP which features an absolute classic of the Rhythm Boys, MISSISSIP I MUD.

JOHN D BASSETT writes from Great Wakering, Essex, England.
.....Incidentally, I know this might sound ridiculous, but it took me about ten minutes to fathom out what the cover on the January issue was supposed to represent, after narrowing down the possibilities to an abstract design of wood chippings and a map of the world, I just happenned to hold out the magazine at arms lenth and glance at the reflection in a nearby mirror. It was then that I discovered what it was, and the more I look at it now, the more clever it appears to be.

MARGARET UNSWORTH writes from Hatfield, Herts, England
Thank you very much for your reply to my letter and I would very much like to become a member of the Bing Crosby Circle.

JACK GREAVES writes from Blackpool, Lancs, England
You may recall my writing to you after the article in the Daily Mirror last December, since then I have bought several of Bing's LP's mainly on the Ace of Hearts label, which I have found very enjoyable. I have now decided to join the Society.

EILEEN KNIGHT writes from West Bromwich, England
Got a promotion copy of Bing's new single WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE WORLD, swings along does'nt it? with a dash of modesty, a spoonful of sincerity, a lot of chrystal clear pronunciation, and add to it a shake of magic that only Bing's got, and there you have it, another good record - Bing's voice is as clear as church bells on a Sunday morning - Wish I could have seen that article on the club in the Daily Mirror.

MR W SMITH writes from Lothersdale, Yorkshire, England.
I would very much like to become a member of the Bing club and would mention that a very good friend of mine Mr George Smith of Keighley first introduced me to Bing records 26 years ago, and I've been collecting ever since.

BRIAN PATTINSON writes from Dunstan, Co Durham, England
The Bridge Hotel in Newcastle on Tyne have Bing's single STEP TO THE REAR in the Juke Box - have also heard it twice on Radio One - in the Newcastle Evening Chronicle they recently mentioned that FRANKIE VAUGHAN was the recent recipient of THE GOLD MICROPHONE, the International Sound Industry's highest award to show business which has only been awarded to four previous artists, CROSBY, SINATRA, SAMMY DAVIS and MARLENE DIETRICH.

JACK SOUTHER writes from San Francisco, USA
Looks like time to send in my renewal for both magazines - when time permits I'll also be sending an article or ad for one or both of the issues.

CHARLIE TUPPER writes from Surrey, England
I recently saw MAURICE CHEVALIER'S farewell at the London Palladium - a great artist and a show I will not forget.

Direct from DON DENNEY in Spokane, Washington - USA

Spokane Daily Chronicle 9-March-1968

CROSBY'S VISIT SPOKANE - YOUNG HARRY SINGS TOO

by John Calcaterra

Harry Lillis Crosby on his arrival at Spokane International Airport this morning entertained the welcoming folk with a guitar solo of "Malaguena". His father, Bing, stood by proudly. It was a warm reception filled with the casualness that has become associated with the famed singer-actor. It belied the heavy schedule ahead today as he was to dedicate a new micro-film centre at Gonzaga University.

The dedication was to take place at Kennedy Pavilion. It was preceded by a tour of the campus which features the $700,000 Crosby Library, a gift from the crooner, a luncheon with college officials and representatives of the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co (3M) a dinner this evening at the Jesuit House and a visit to Gonzaga's presentation of "My Fair Lady" tonight at Shadle Park High School.

The microfilm center, first of it's kind in the nation, is also a gift from Crosby It will be housed in the library and will provide access to more than four million books in the New York Public Library. The material is now being filmed by 3M.

The sleek red, white and blue private jet bearing the Crosby's touched down at Spokane with about 50 onlookers at hand. First to emerge from the plane was Nathaniel Crosby, 6, who was greeted by the Very Rev John P Leary, S.J. President of Gonzaga, and the Rev Arthur L Dussault S.J. Vice President. Nathaniel was followed by Mary Frances, 8, pink coat bright in the morning sunshine, who slowly extended her hand and curtsied. Harry 111, 9, then stepped out, a guitar slung over his shoulder. Abruptly, a very famous baritone voice from within the plane said "Harry, come back here". He turned and re-entered the plane. Then the boy emerged again, immediately ahead of his dad. Bing Crosby, wearing a sport hat, brown checke sport coat and sharply creased gray slacks, greeted the Gonzaga officials and two nuns from Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Sister Mary Howard and Sister Mary Elizabeth. "California weather" he said looking at Spokane's bright blue sky. He had a deep tan, which he said he had acquired in Mexico. It was then that Harry 111 volunteered to perform on his guitar. His dad overruled a suggestion that he sing a few bars of accompaniment. Crosby said it was his first visit to Spokane in about four years. He brought the children because his wife Kathy is at present doing a play in Florida.

The partymoved to a waiting limousine where Crosby immediately lit up a pipe and settled down for the ride to Ridpath where he will headquarter during his brief visit here. He entered via a basement elevator to go directly to his ninth floor room, but many persons standing outside and in the vicinity of the driveway recognized him immediately. The elevator was occupied by a teen-age girl when he stepped aboard, It was apparent that the last person in the world she ever expected to stand next to in an elevator was Bing Crosby. In spite of a metal neck brace the result of a broken neck she incurred while diving at a swimming meet in January the girl, Jeanne Miller, 18, a Gonzaga freshman could not conceal her surprise. Sje described the accident in responce to a question from Crosby, then excitedly related the incident to her father Frank Miller of San Francisco, here, for Parents Weekend activities at Gonzaga.

It was a homecoming too for Crosby. A native of Tacoma, he came here as a child with his family and attended Webster Grade School and Gonzaga High School before enrolling at Gonzaga University. From Gonzaga, he went to vaudeville, became a member of the Rhythm Boys with Paul Whiteman's Band and gained stardom in movies, radio and television, He is the all-time recording champion and it has been said that his voice is heard somewhere in the world at every moment of the day.

Instillation of the micro-film center was to begin immediately after the convocation. James Nadeau of 3M said it will be available for use within a three or four hour period. Microfilm acquisition will be selected by the University's library committee., with special emphasis on American history, philosophy and theology, said the Rev Clifford Carroll, S.J., librarian.

photo captions page 5 SPOKANE DAILY CHRONICLE 9. March, 1968

OLD GRAD GETS A GONZAGA GREETING
The Very Rev John P Leary SJ, President of Gonzaga University greets Bing Crosby's three children on their arrival at Spokane International Airport today - This is the three youngsters first visit there.

Former Gonzaga University classmates, the Rev Arthur L Dussault SJ and Bing Crosby meet again, Father Dussault is Vice President of Gonzaga and was on hand to welcome Crosby for the presentation today of a GU microfilm center.

The Spokesman Review - Sunday March 10, 1968
GONZAGA HONOURS A DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS
Academic convocation in Gonzaga University's Kennedy Pavilion Saturday honours GU alum Bing Crosby who presented the school with a microfilm center, seen at right on stage. inset, Crosby speaking.

BING GIVEN TOP HONOR BY GONZAGA (photo caption) DESMET MEDAL FOR BING CROSBY
Father Leary, right, presents GU's top award to Bing Crosby

Harry L (Bing) Crosby was welcomed and honoured by his alma mater, Gonzaga University, Saturday, and was awarded its highest accolade, the DeSmet medal. During an academic convocation held in the Kennedy Pavilion the medal was bestowed on the regent and alumus Crosby. The award is named in honor of the Society of Jesus missionary, Pierre Jean DeSmet, and is given annually to a distinguished person.

The citation read by the academic vice president Arthur L McNeil SJ said, in part. "Because of his sustained affection for Gonzaga University and the ideals it stands for, and because his life represents that modest triumph of grace in a mans heart issuing in hope, optimism, laughter and self giving, we do with joy confer on our son, Bing Crosby, our most prized award, the DeSmet medal.

Crosby is visiting the university this weekend to present his gift of the nations first Microfilm Research Center, developed by the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M) Co. Representatives from 3M also are on the campus to install the unit in the Crosby Library which will give the university access to more than four million reference works of the New York Public Library.

In presenting the gift, the actor-singer said "I have been associated with the 3M people for many occasions, but nothing they have done has given me more gratification, I am grateful to them akso because this has given me the opportunity to come to Gonzaga after 11 years and see the glorious changes that have than place on the campus."

.....END.....

Also enclosed with this terrific exclusive report from Don was a personal tape carr ying his own personal on the spot coverage of this great event - a full transcription of this tape is being prepared for later inclusion in this issue. This is of special interest since it also includes part of the TV news coverage and part of Bing's actual speech - also on the tape and adding a quite unique flavour to your editors collection is Harry Jn's guitar solo of "Malaguena" - This tape is being included in the events planned at the May 26th meeting at North Shields. It is also Hoped to be able to follow up some special action by Don Denney to obtain some of the great photos of this event - the press ones as featured in the article are terrific and Bing and the children look great - If any action on these is forthcoming we shall advise details of a special souvenir set.

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12 Editors Note; The recent article on the club which appeared in the Daily Mirror has aroused some considerable interest - especially since it should have appeared in the last issue - it was in fact scheduled for that issue and due to an editorial bloomer got missed out - I hope you don't mind the 'High Priest' tag for actually, I rather fancy myself as more of a Nizam type - You too can be a meditator like me.....

Daily Mirror. Wednesday December 20, 1967
THEY'RE DREAMING OF A BING CHRISTMAS by Colin Dunne

We went easy on the screaming and frothing at the mouth when we fans got together at Frank Murphy's house. No one fainted when the great star's voice boomed out over the loudspeaker,. Hysteria was well in hand as his familiar face smiled down from wall and mantelshelf. But then, we Bing Crosby fans like to think we can control our emotions. These young pop crazed teenagers may make more noise, but when it comes to sheer timeless loyalty, they can't touch the Bingsters. Their adulation survives even thinning hair and wrinkled brows.

The International Crosby Circle has a large band of ageing but tireless devotees scattered from Australia to Poland, but it's heart beats strongest in Frank Murphy's terraced house in Lovaine Place, North Shields. This is the movements holy of holy days. and Frank, a 37 year old cinema manager is high priest - From the Crosby room, a back room packed with Crosbyana he sends out Blazer Badges, Embossed Pens and quarterly magazines to fans the world over. Middle aged fans meet there, fathers of Beatle fans, to hand around dog eared fan mail, swap old jokes about Bob Hope and listen still enraptured to the voice that has hypnotised them for more than 30 years

I joined them over salmon sandwiches and sweet tea and we talked about "Mr C" while Frank, secretary and editor played a selection fromhis 70 reels of tape, 500 78's and 140 LP and EP records - Every note that Bing has recorded in fact - "What is it that holds us"?. Frank, dark and personable, has been asked that before."We were talking about it once, when Bing made a film in which he did'nt sing at all. We decided that really it's just enough for him to be there, without singing. Just the great man himself.

Frank has met Bing eight times. He and a handfull of devotees dash off to Bing's side whenever he lands in this country - "When I think of all those who stood at his side - ARMSTRONG, COMO, JOLSON and all those - and I stood there too and got just the same handshake, just the same smile, that's Bing, just one of the boys"

John Maughan, a graggy 37 year old barber from Wallsend, held out a large hand. "That's the one he shook" he said. And added jokingly "I did'nt wash it for seven weeks afterwards" - At least I think he was joking.

Jack Shaw, a 47 year old engine driver, first wrote a fan letter to Bing in 1935. "He's a man's man. That's why I like him. I used to keep a picture of him on my locker at work"

"Hey did you?" asked Bill Bell, a 38 year old joiner from Walker. "I used to have his his picture pinned up when I was doing National Service. All the other lads had pin-ups"

All the fans have their favourite records by Bing. Frank's is I FOUND A MILLION DOLLAR BABY made in 1931. "Not that it's a brilliant vocal. His voice was'nt really set then but it's very nostalgic for me"

Mr Maughan has a tape recorder in his barbers shop. Some clients come in and ask to be clipped to Bing's accompaniment, he says. The younger ones are not always so keen. "They go out with one ear" he added, significantly. He'll be playing Bing's seasonal songs over Christmas. Like the Crosby classic WHITE CHRISTMAS. Circle members are all dreaming of a Bing Christmas."Without Bing", says Mr Maughan, "Christmas would be like roast beef without Yorkshire pudding"

And at one minute to midnight on New Year's Eve, Mr Shaw who lives in Walker, won't be crossing arms for AULD LANG SYNE. He'll be playing LET'S START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

by Bing Crosby of course. "I've done that every year since 1942 when I got the record" he said, proudly.

Their children are mostly Bing fans, too, though not so dedicated as their parents. For evidence Frank called in his 11 year old son Michael. He stood there shy and pink, before the massed ranks of the Crosby club. "My favourites? The Monkees" he whispered. Frank sighed. "It's a pity" he said "He'll have to die for that".

As I said before. I think he was joking....

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* THE ROAD RUNNER *
* by Fred Romary *
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One thing everyone realizes when they come into contact with Bob Hope for the first time.....is that he does'nt need a flock of writers firing quips at him to answer the world. This boy is faster than a machine gun. And some say he has always been this way. A BOB HOPE QUIP is just that.....his....and his alone.

Outside of show business and a deep concern for the state of the world this legendary funny man born Leslie Townes Hope is extremely proud of his yearly DESERT CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT. The Classic, which like Bing's is for charity and in the last eight such affairs have netted $840,000. "Not too bad for passing the can around, huh!" explains Bob with that snear that is familiar to movie-goers of the world. Hope with great button poppin pride states, "It's really the biggest...we have 136 pros and 408 amateurs on the four courses". The courses are located at La Quinta, Eldorado, Bermuda and Indian Wells. "We usually play one pro with three amateurs, where as Crosby plays only one amateur on three courses. Crosby is usually the amateur....Our bash is the only 90 hope tournament Everyone plays for four days and the pros alone, come on Sunday".

Bob tell us about your game. "I think I'm due on stage' Why do you want to ruin my evening? I miss a put now and then. It happens once in a while....I play a Crosby game. Actually Bing and I are about even. I let him change the card now and then. He gets sore if I don't let him"

Has golf changed much over the years? "Yeah, they've glamorized the whole thing. The players dress flashier, everythings been glamorized. I think it started picking up all round with the birth of TV coverage. Television is very important, The audience is conscious of what it is looking at...and that includes the players dress. That's why so many of them tie in with sportswear manufacturers. All the pros are dressed in one thing or another that identifies them. Even Bing wears his shawl on the links. People notice what I wear. They like this or that...My daughter buys a lot of my gold clothes. How did we get of on this clothes kick?

Well Bob, it's better than asking you about your films and such. "Ask, ask, ask.....!" Bob commented. He went on to say "I've seen some guys wearing turtleneck shirts with dinner jackets...I don't like that a bit....I'm always looking to see if they're holding dumbells....you know, a formal gym suit look"

OK Bob, what do you think about so called 'Adult Films? "Well, it depends. They're alright if they've got class. After all anything that has entertainment in it should be alright. We stand fo a lot on the stage today...mostly because what's being produced there has a certain amount of class, but I can't go along with a play called THE BEARD. I'm doing the oscars again this year..my 15th time up. It looks like being a close race this year. Rod Steiger is hot again. I guess Faye Dunaway is right up there. One thing, it does'nt look like an English sweep this time.

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FRED ROMARY
.....continues.....THE ROAD RUNNER

If you have any time off what do you do with it?. Bob related "I do some fishing and boating....and of course there's golf. Hope has received some 750 awards and citations for his humanitarian and professional tasks. He has just been made honorary mayer of Palm Springs California and will keep the post for as long as he lives. "There is one award you forgot....the one I got for breaking the most Crosby records in one year. Think it was the Dean Martin fan club sent it along to me"

"They're really calling me on stage now....look at him (Crosby) he's spread out like he owns it" and so Hope made his way to the arena to r n through Road to Morocco and Put It There Pal with Bing. The duet was the hit of the evening of the opening of the New Madison Square Garden.

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* BING CROSBY FOR COLLECTORS ONLY *
* Jean Paul Frereault writes from P.Q. Canada *
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For the benefit of members who may not have had the opportunity of purchasing this rare set I am printing the full sleeve notes as contained in 5 pages with the special double album - There were only 500 copies made of this immediate sellout and my copy is numbered 221

SIDE ONE
I've got the girl, with Don Clark's Biltmore Hotel Orch... Rollicking Rockaway Raoul, with a tribute to director of Going Hollywood... Argument with Jack Kapp... Robins and Roses, (parody) with Victor Young's orch, Bing's own version... Jimmy Valentine, fluff... Wrap you're troubles in dreams, fluff... Angels of Mercy, for the benefit of the Red Cross... Junk ain't junk any more, from a radio show, a drive for scrap metal... I'm saving a dime out of every dollar, with the Alfred Newman orch.

SIDE TWO
The Seventh air force, with chorus... Your all time flop parade, Bing is joined by Judy Garland, The Andrews Sisters and Ken Carpenter... Promotion for the Great John L movie, Bing is joined by Bob Hope, Frances Langford and Frank Sinatra... Iowa, fluff... Always (parody) Bing is joined by Dick Haymes, Dennis Day, Andy Russell, Phil Harris... Sketch with Bing and Bob Hope for Red Cross.

RECORD TWO - Side One and Side two
The celebrated all star cast parody of DICK TRACY - cast in order of appearence- Dick Tracy as Bing Crosby.....etc.....

THE SLEEVE NOTES

In all history there has been no singer whose voice is more easily recognised the world over than Bing Crosby. Since the late 20s his recordings have been finding their way into homes in every country in the world. He has sung popular songs, barbershop ballads, Hawaiian chants, Christmas carols, songs of the West, and even selections from light opera. His Thursday night broadcasts on the Kraft Music Hall were a means of measuring the passing of each week to housholds across the nation.

In his films, Bing introduced dozens of songs that have since become hardy perennials, TEMPTATION, I'M AN OLD COWHAND, SWEET LEILANI, SUNDAY MONDAY OR ALWAYS, SWINGING ON A STAR, PENNIES FROM HEAVEN, MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU, JUNE IN JANUARY, LOVE IN BLOOM, and the great holiday classic WHITE CHRISTMAS, are but a few.

Yet Bing Crosby is the first to admit that there are many singers who possess a finer voice than his, and there are certainly funnier comedians, handsomer leading men, and better actors around. How then is it possible to explain the phenomenal endurance of Bing's popularity over a period of three decades? Perhaps this album holds part of the answer. For this is not merely a collection of songs of one type or another. This album is truly a portrait of not only Bing Crosby the entertainer but more important, Bing Crosby the man.

The selections in this album were recorded between 1926 and 1946 and they reveal many different aspects of the star - We hear him giving his time and energies to the cause of his country in time of war, we hear him surrounded by his friends and co-workers, informally sing at a cast party. We hear him in several comedy routines with some of Hollywood's greatest stars. We hear him augue with the producer of his records about the interpretation of a song. and we even share with him those rare moments when he breaks up at a recording session or performance and gets himself out of a situation with grace and occasionally a dash of bawdy wit.

This album has been prepared, not for sale to the general public, but in a private limited edition of 500 copies for those ardent admirers of Bing Crosby, whose concept of status symbol is not a cadillac sedan or a sports car, but rather a record collection which includes mint copies of the 103 sides he recorded for Brunswick

(1) After Bing and his old friend Al Rinker motored down from Spokane, Washington to Los Angeles in 1925 they sang in clubs and colleges all around town. In his auto-biography CALL ME LUCKY Bing mentioned having made a record with Al Rinker and Don Clarks Biltmore Hotel Orchestra. While Bing cannot remember the exact title of the song it is rumoured to be I'VE GOT THE GIRL, the selection which opens this album. Although it is impossible to recognize his voice even by listening closely there are enough Crosby collectors who faithfully believe that Bing does appear on this disc to have sent it's value skyrocketing. The reason is quite simple. The recording was made on 18 October 1926 and if Bing does sing on this disc, it is almost without doubt the first record he ever made.

(2)Having made several successful screen appearances by 1933, Bing was selected as leading man for Marion Davies picture GOING HOLLYWOOD, because of the extravagant budget which William Randolph Hearst lavished upin his favourite star, the shooting was so leisurely that it took six months to complete, longer than any other Crosby film. When the film was finally finished, in the Fall of 1933 there was a cast party at which Bing informally sang ROLLICKING ROCKAWAY RAOUL a tribute to the director of GOING HOLLYWOOD, Raoul Walsh, who hails from Rockaway Beach New York. The lyrics also mention producer Walter Wanger, Marion Davies and a couple of bootleggers named Greenwood and Newman.

(3) In 1935 Bing appeared as a guest in Paramount's all star film THE BIG BROADCAST OF 1936. His entire role consisted of stepping out of a rustic cabin in a wood and ambling over to the edge of a lake, as he warbled I WISHED ON THE MOON, Later, when the time came to make a commercial record of the tune, Bing decided to do the number as a brief vocal refrain in a dance arrangment. The producer of the record, Jack Kapp had some other ideas on the subject as this rare recording of their augument, made on August 14th 1935 will indicate. PS Bing won the battle but lost the war. He did merely sing the vocal refrain on what was otherwise a Jimmy Dorsey record, but the public failed to react with enthusiasm and the recording turned out to be one of the few duds he had during that period.

(4) On March 29th 1936 Bing recorded the popular song ROBINS AND ROSES backed by Victor Young's Orchestra. With some extra time left over at the session, the crooner decided to do a parody version by mentioning the names of some of his cronies in the Brill Building - Lindy's set.

(5) While making Paramounts THE STAR-MAKER, Bing lost his place during the recording of JIMMY VALENTINE and produced one of the most famous fluff recordings of all time.

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(6) Another famous blooner made the same year, on June 9th 1939 to be exact WRAP YOUR TROUBLES IN DREAMS is another classic example of how the crooner invented his own lyrics to get himself out of a tight situation to the obvious delight of the musicians who continue to play the song to the end.

(7) In 1941 Irving Berlin wrote ANGELS OF MERCY for the benefit of the RED CROSS in America. This is the actual of the sondtrack short subject starring Bing which was siniltaneously released by Paramount, MGM and 20th Century Fox. Each company used the same soundtrack and close-up of Bing singing but each superimposed completely different shots of the Red Cross in action, taken from their respective film libraries.

(8) With America at war, Bing Crosby served his country in the most effective way possible, through the use of his voice. During the drive for scrap metals in June 1942, he made this brief radio spot JUNK AIN'T JUNK ANY MORE.

(9) Bing helped spur the sale of war stamps and bonds with the special song I'M SAVING A DIME (out of every dollar) penned by one of Hollywoods leading song writing teams Robin and Rainger. This was one of Ralph Rainger's last songs for he was killed in a airplane crash in 1942.

(1) Bing's favourite song writing team Burke and Van Heusen were asked to write THE SEVENTH AIR FORCE song at a moments notice,and within a few days, Bing and the chorus performed it. This is a typical example of the splendid manner in which the entertainment world rallied to help the cause offreedom during the second world war. On an armed forces radio rally broadcast, Bing, Judy Garland and the Andrews Sisters performed this song parody on the popular radio show YOUR HIT PARADE. In YOUR ALL TIME FLOP PARADE we are treated to a calamatous collection of dismal dosers. (2)

(3) In 1945 Bing turned producer with THE GREAT JOHN L. SULLIVAN, a glamorized biography of the famous prize fighter John L Sullivan, with Greg McClure in the title role and Linda Darnell and Barbara Britton as the leading ladies. The film laid the egg of the year. This amusing promotion record with Bing, Bob Hope, Frances Langford, Linda Darnell and Frank Sinatra unfortunately failed to help the situation

(4) Bing appeared with composer Meredith Willson on the amred forces radio show MALE CALL, to introduce Wilson's song IOWA. Insufficiently rehearsed, Bing made two false starts and finally had to confess to the audience that he cannot read music.

)5(While a guest star on Jack Benny's sunday night radio show, Bing made this blooner which was heard throughout the nation, back in the days when all radio broadcasts were live.

(6) Bing and Bob Hope first met in 1932 at the Capitol Theatre in New York City, where they happened to be both appearing on the same bill. Although Crosby was already with Paramount, and Hope joined the studio in 1938, they did not work together again until THE ROAD TO SINGAPORE released in 1941. From then on their careers were virtually inseperable. When not co-starring in 'Road' films they appeared as guests on each others radio programs and frequently were seen for an instant in surprsing guest appearances in each others films.Generally their routine consisted of an assualt of insults regarding Hope's nose, Crosby's ears and hairpiece, and each others skill on the golf course. As audiences roared, the sale of Kraft cheese and Pepsodent toothpaste soared, In this excerpt form a special Red Cross broadcast we hear a typical CROSBY-HOPE sketch in which each takes the credit for discovering the other

SIDES 3 and 4 DICK TRACY IN B FLAT or
FOR GOODNESS SAKE, IS'NT HE EVER GOING TO MARRY HARRY TESS TRUEHEART?

CAST

Dick Tracy-BING CROSBY..Tess Trueheart-DINAH SHORE..Old Judge Hooper-HARRY VAN ZELL The Police Chief-JERRY COLONNA..Flattop-BOB HOPE..Vitamin Flintheart-FRANK MORGAN.. The Mole-JIMMY DURANTE..Snowflake-JUDY GARLAND..Summer Sisters-THE ANDREWS SISTERS Shaky-FRANK SINATRA..Gravel Gertie-CASS DALEY. Recorded for the Armed Forces Radio Service Command Performance, Febuary 15th 1945.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (part two)

THOMAS COLMAN writes from Salford 5, Manchester, England
I had a wonderful surprise recently when I received a letter from the great man himself. I saw his address in one of the magazines so I wrote to him and received a letter back on Feb 12, I was thrilled with it and I want to thank the club for making this possible for this is a letter I shall dearly treasure -

Dear Mr Colman,

Many thanks for your kind letter and your interest.

I hope you enjoy the club.

Sincerely,

signed BING
Bing Crosby

ROY and DENISE CLARK write from Leeds 13, England
One point about "BING" you ask about members comments on possible improvements in the magazine and we thought you might consider putting one page in each issue with glossy photos on it - we did this with the magazine we issued with THE SQUARE CIRCLE CLUB and it was a very popular feature.

PETER BURGIS writes from Hornsby 2077, NSW, Australia
I've been scratching my noggin for a few constructive critisisms and came up with the following suggestions for consideration.
(1) Would it be possible to put the number of each issue with date and year on the cover page.
(2) Could we have continued the articles on other artists associated with Bing and especially his rivals such as COLUMBO, VALLEE, DICK TODD, etc?
(3) Would it be possible to arrange for the soliciting of a critical article on Bing's ability as an artist? If a responsible author could be enticed to offer critisisms of Bing accordingly I'm sure it would create a great deal of interest. After all I'm sure Bing himself would agree that no-one is perfect and every artist has some weaknesses or faults'' - Discussion and controversy of this nature would give a better balanced picture of Bing's artistic stature and would combat any unintentional "mutual admiration society" tendency which at times can be a little overbearing at times.
(4) This has little to do with "BING" but warrents publicity. Surely it is time a complete Bing discography was made generally available'' - We already have a AL BOWLLY Discography (2nd edition now available) but no similar work for Bing. I realise that a discography ROAD TO BING CROSBY has been appearing in sections over a period but this will apparently take some time to complete and is printed in such small quantitiies (150 per issue) that the majority of potential buyers must be dissapointed by missing out. THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY issues which I have managed to inspect (I was too late to purchase) are excellent so here's hoping it will not be long before the complete Bing Crosby Discography is available in adequate quantity.

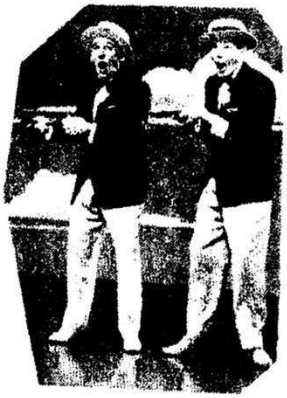
Trust the above comments and suggestions may prove of some interest and value.

RAYDOND ELLIOTT writes from Coleraine, Co Derry, N Ireland
Lately I have bought a few of Bing's LP's, CROSBY CLASSICS, MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY, BELOVED HYMNS and of course Bing's new single STEP TO THE REAR which I thought was terrific, espeically the 'B' side, STEP TO THE REAR, a great modern backing, On this record Bing's voice sounds as great as ever, shows that Bing could surely get into todays charts if he gets the right number and got enough plugs. I would like to say a special thank-you to BOB ROBERTS for his story on the CROSBY LIBRARY , a really great contribution.

Lunching with Bing Crosby between "Just For You" scenes. "It was a holiday doing this picture with Bing."

Highlight of the "Bridge on the River Kwai" Hollywood preem last December was the entrance of the Crosbys making their first public appearance as Mr. and Mrs. And **Kathy** was radiant!

Bing sticks his neck out in our picture from behind the shapely shoulder of Rosemary Clooney. The clown on the other side is Danny Kaye.



Bing Crosby

THE LESLIE GAYLOR COLUMN

Hello Members,

Well, here we are again and back in the fold. I slipped up for the last issue over the matter of dates of publication so that is why you never saw any contribution from me - However I was very pleased to see the great presentation of Bing's very fine letter to me, I must say I felt very proud at receiving that letter and the recording news it contained. A really good tonic for the start of the New Year.

To-date information has come to hand of one of the albums Bing mentioned, namely the PICKWICK INTERNATIONAL session he done. I was very fortunate myself to have my long time contact in America rush me over the titles that Bing taped and the possible release date of the album which was tentatively set for March 15 and under the title of THOROUGHLY MODERN BING - a very apt album title I thought. The recording data sheet I had showed the first five titles as recorded on Feb 9 and the set of 8 titles as recorded on Feb 12 (see following list of titles. I am now wondering how they obtained the date of Feb 9 as this as this date is from the files of a person who keeps a check for obvious reasons on all that Bing records etc. I mention this because that indefatigable Bing collector FRED ROMARY of New York actually attended the session of Feb 12 and witnessed all 13 tracks taped by Bing between the time of 9.30 am and 11.10 am, a masterly performance indeed and even this, Fred tells me included one or two alternate takes, this being done because it was decided to try out one or two tracks either in ballad form or up-tempo style. The data sheet I had also showed all tracks on one album whereas Fred states that 11 tracks would be in album form and 2 scheduled for a single. As Fred has witnessed the recording session and met those concerned with the recordings, well then, his gen is the most acceptable. But I shall ask for a re-check on the data I received, as it was rushed over so very quickly, well then, there may be an explanation. Here then are the titles which appear so exciting and as the recordings have our "always hoped for FULL Bing voice" then it's a cert it will pay off well for Bing.

THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE TALK TO THE ANIMALS DING DONG THE WITCH IS DEAD HIGH HOPES MY FRIEND THE DOCTOR (I CALL YOU) SUNSHINE WHERE THE RAINBOW ENDS WHAT'S MORE AMERICAN UP, UP AND AWAY PUFF, THE MAGIC DRAGON CHIM CHIM CHEREE LOVE IS BLUE THAT'S ALL I WANT FROM YOU

A great set of songs everyone will agree and naturally we all look forward to its release in the U.K.. I have myself told a number of people about it, persons in the right places incidentally.

STEP TO THE REAR Reprise single

To join Fred Reynolds "Brag Corner" as mentioned in the last issue of "BING" the above mentioned single gives me the chance to follow suit in that I enjoyed the pleasure in receiving from Larry Crosby a white label promotion copy and from Fred Romary a red label USA commercial issue. I have been asked a number of times now what I thought of this record so perhaps I can take advantage of this column to give my personal view - Well on playing the recordings the first few seconds was enough to give me much dissapointment it being evident that poor technical qualities involved , created the reaction I got - I first noticed that the orchestra was recorded very fine indeed, but the balance was such that Bing's voice was covered far too much by the accompaniment and that it was almost lost amid the brash and very modern pop sounding orchestra. Whoever 'mixed' Bing's basic track and the basic track of Eddie Freeman's orchestra sabotaged Bing, was my first reaction, and it did'nt take me long to drop a couple of pages to SONNY BURKE who produced the session and needless to say that I never got a reply. At this time I was also playing over the BING CROSBY IN HOLLYWOOD 1930 - 1934 set and I realised just how great those engineers of more than 30 years ago were, and how supposedly with their lesser quality equipment they done so much justice to Bing and compared with Donny Burke and his modern engineering. However, if he was instrumental in getting Bing to the studio to record the four songs last October, well then he deserves full marks

Les continue-on page 20

Les continues
THE LESLIE GAYLOR COLUMN

Myself I find some pleasure in the two songs so far issued - I don't dislike them, but it was the poor engineering that my ears did'nt like. There is none of the great recording quality of recording as on the Australian EP disc or the Longines Symphonette Society tracks - A point worth noting is that the younger generation really like this record and it's had some considerable plays on radio, even JACK JACKSON has played it three weeks running on his popular BBC radio programme, and he who conveniently forgot for sometime that the 'Ol Master' was still around. Every review of this single that I read was offering some appraisal for it, so that was pleasing to note I thought. But I could'nt help thinking that had the engineering been done in a more proffessional manner Bing would have done pretty well with the record. My young daughter thinks STEP TO THE REAR is the best recording Bing has ever made and that LIZA is a good runner-up - Fred Romary has I feel hit the nail on the head in that it was deliberately decided to cover Bing's voice because loud accompaniments covering singers voices go down better with American juke boxes so that those dancing can hear the music louder - It might well be worth mentioning that in a recent issue of the magazine Frank printed a part of a letter from LARRY CROSBY to me under the heading

========== ADVICE TO WOULD BE SINGERS, Larry said "THE ACCOMPANIMENT SHOULD NOT COVER THE SINGERS VOICE AND IF TO FANCY IT TAKES AWAY"

But whatever are out humble views on the manner of recording of this latest Reprise single or of the nature of the material used, at least it can be safely said that it has helped to keep the flag flying for Bing and has injected new life.

"IT'S A GOOD DAY" - Australian RCA EP

Everyone who possesses this great EP knows just how great THE KING is on all four recordings. Therefore I should like to mention here that at the request of the BBC-LONDON I purchased them a copy of this record through the good offices of KEITH HYDE of Australia, last December. Mr Derek Lewis the BBC Librarian to whom I supplied the disc says the record is now in their library and as far as he can see they is no restrictions on the playing of any of the tracks and just hope now that some producer will make use of the recordings — So friends get your request cards going to the BBC for the benefit of new members the four songs, none of which have ever been released in Ebgland before are as follows;-

THE MUSIC OF HOME IT'S A GOOD DAY ALOHA MEANS I LOVE YOU and
THE NEW ASHMOLEAN MARCHING SOCIETY AND STUDENTS CONSERVATORY BAND
all recorded on Jan 28 1960

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* *
* UNISSUED ALBUM QUERY *
* *
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Some correspondence of late has brought me a few queries with refference to the titles and details of an unissued albup I first gave news of to Frank for publication some while ago. Although I have already given it in the past it seems it is well worth a repeat but in a more explanatory form - The record I refer to is one I personally gave a suggested title too and therefore is not the OFFICIAL one. namely BING CROSBY ON THE SENTIMENTAL SIDE.

In April 1962 Mr SIMON RADY who was then the President of PROJECT RECORDS, a part of BING CROSBY ENTERPRISES had two sets of basic tracks recorded in London - For and album titled BING CROSBY ON THE HAPPY SIDE he sued one of these basic tracks and Bing sang (dubbed) over the basic track at UNITED RECORDERS in HOLLYWOOD on April 30 1962. This turned out to be a singalong album and was subsequently released. The othr 'Basic' track that was recorded in London was used for an album that has never been issued and features songs like TOM DOOLEY, BLUEBERRY HILL, A PRETTY GIRL IS LIKE A MELODY, and ALL ALONE among others. Bing dubbed over this basic track at ~~WESTERN~~ RECORDING STUDIOS on June 26 1962. On August 21 1962 I received notification that these two albums had been made but as at that time they had not been released. Mr Simon Rady stated through a contact that I could have the master numbers etc but only when the albums were made available. When ON THE HAPPY SIDE was issued the neccessary data came over and this record

was pressed by Warner Bros, noting that they (leased the tapes) from Project Records, the owners - Judging by the information sheet I have, one can detect under heavy blotting RELEASED BY WARNER BROS for the now UNISSUED album. So one can assume that some agreement had been made or reached that Warner Bros would release it. Around this time about early 1963 I believe PROJECT RECORDS was sold to CAPITOL RECORDS and Mr Simon Rady took up a position with them and recorded Bing for that label - Now the question is, did the release of this album fall through because Capitol Records took over Project Records, and do Capitol now have the master tapes - The last letter I have from the Crosby organisation a year or soago said they hoped the record would be issued, but as a long time has now elapsed since it was made in 1962 they now doubted if it would be released. I should like to say that only the BASIC tracks were recorded in London.

When Bing was here in 1961 at Shepperton Studios making THE ROAD TO HONG KONG he was incidentally going to make a Christmas album in London, and he let me know that I could attend the recording session if things were finalised. Mr Simon Rady came over about making the album but plans never materialisedinstead when Bing returned from holiday in Italy in 1962 he immediately went over to ~~United~~ Recorders Studios in Hollywood and dubbed over the exsisting basic tracks for the album I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

If Bing does come here again for another proposed ROAD film well then I will ask him about the mystery of the unissued disc, or perhaps one of the top collectors will. I was going to ask Bing about it last June but such is the excitement of being with "the Greatest" that I forgot, incidentally A note I have simply states "No it is not a singalong" yet the layout of the titles would suggest it was.

BING AND LOUIS MFP 1209

Thanks to my good friend Reg Bristo that I got the tip off' about this release and I noted soon after that all the local shops had it on display, I thought it was fine indeed to note a disc on show from THE MASTER among all THE PUPILS and accompanied by his equally famous partner the great LOUIS ARMSTRONG - to come into the Brag Corner again, I have a copy of this disc but on it's original American release label and which was given to me by Bing in 1960 and the sleeve is autographed. I obtained the new MFP album however and I'm glad I did because the sleeve notes on Bing are about the best ever on any of his LP releases. At long last, the writer Roger St Pierre has put in his notes for all to see one or two facts that really stand out on Bing's behalf - This includes his unparalleled sales of records a mention of his FIRST CITIZEN OF THE RECORDING INDUSTRY status and a great description of Bing being the most distinguished voice in Pop - Frank will no doubt be mentioning the titles in his reviews.

WORLD RECORD CLUB LABEL

Any new member who did'nt get the original Capitol recording LP of THAT TRAVELING TWO BEAT (now deleted) Capitol T2300 can however now obtain the same record on the World Record Club label T652 titled AROUND THE WORLD IN DIXIELAND - this disc is of 12 duets with Bing and Rosemary Clooney. The same label releases next January another Capitol record now deleted T2346 THE GREAT COUNTRY HITS, this will probably be available on label number T833.
A recent review of the first album in the Melody Maker described it as not representative of the best of both artists - but here again the recording quality is not top line, which may have been the reason for their review. I know this has been so far the comment of others. A pretty good disc though and some natty dueting indeed. Regarding the second album a review of that album at the time of first issue in THE GRAMOPHONE sent to me by member Peter Robinson described the disc as THIRD RATE CROSBY. Here however we have a real good selection of songs nicely sung and good accompaniment. Perhaps the reason why the reviewer made his remarks might be due to the fact that Bing had a cold on the recording sessions rather reminiscent in sound to EASTER PARADE - a couple of good discs to have is my personal verdict.

Les continues over

continueing THE LESLIE GAYLOR COLUMN

BBC RADIO NEWS

In early Fe uary did anyone hear as I did in one of the BBC 7.30 news bulletins the announcer state that a new Pop club costing £20,000 had been opened that very day in London - Something quite unusual then happened and they played Bing's recording of LEARN TO CROON with Buddy Cole's Trio, withthe announcment that "There is a man who knows all about being "Top of the Pops" - This made me think that whilst producers are going overboard to play Sinatra, Tony Bennett recordings among others and deejays and script writers pouring out how great pop groups and current idols are, someone at the BBC had the great initiative to think about THE KING himself.

"BING RARE STYLE"

I would just like to record here my own personal view on this very fine LP release and everyone I note is more than grateful to Geoff Milne of Decca for creating this disc and giving us much pleasure. Even the great Bing himself offered his own fine enthusiasm to Mr Milne's album sleeve notes and I'm quite sure that after reading the appraisals as contained in the write-up it can be safely said that they might have given Bing an added enthusiasm to record more often - That the album offered us some grear recordings of the past was obviously noted by Bing and surely must have revealed to him that there is really a market for any recordings he makes.
I find it hard to single out any one favourite track but the tone of voice I like Bing best at is on LOST IN LOVELINESS. This is the real familiar Crosby tones that everyone associates him with. Evert track is good and how I like that BUDDY COLE organ playing on MORE THAN YOU KNOW. Those CBS radio tracks were brilliant, as is evident on the Brunswick LP LAT 8217 NEW TRICKS. All in all RARE STYLE is a great record and I agree with those who regret that the best track of all the original ones on the two deleted Brunswick EP's BING SINGS, was left off - namely MOMENTS TO REMEMBER - it is a better track I agree than SAILING DOWN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY or SOMETHING IN COMMON which were used. these however are worthwhile tracks indeed and very nice to have. It is quite possible Geoff Milne had planned to use MOMENTS TO REMEMBER say on side One until YOU ARE TOO BEAUTIFUL came along, just a thought of mine only - Yes I agree it would have been easy to have put the orchestras on the sleeve notes.

BING-WHITEMAN ERA LP

Through the kind attenti ns of two friends, FRED ROMARY and BOB ROBERTS I learned of the existance of the following LP in the USA and everyone will surely hope that it will become available here - American Columbia cl 2830

side one CONSTANTINOPLE TAINT SO HONEY TAINT SO GET OUT AND GET UNDER THE MOON I'D RATHER CRY OVER YOU I'M ON THE CREST OF A WAVE BECAUSE MY BABY DON'T MEAN MAYBE OUT OF TOWN GAL THAT'S MY WEAKNESS NOW
Side two I'M BRINGING A RED RED ROSE (non Bing) COQUETTE REACHING FOR SOMEONE SOMEONE SPOSIN' AT TWILIGHT WHEN YOUR COUNTING STARS ALONE I'M A DREAMER AREN'T WE ALL A BUNDLE OF OLD LOVE LETTERS.

In closing I would like to thank all those who sent me their many Christmas cards, so,ewhat late admittedly and my due thanks to all who made the last issue of "BING" so very enjoyable - So friends here's hoping that over the next few weeks you will be enjoying your BING CROSBY IN HOLLYWOOD albums on CBS 66206 and the THOROUGHLY MODERN BING album.

Lot's of good listening to you all - LESLIE GAYLOR

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JULY ISSUE OF "BING" SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR NOT LATER THAN JULY 1st (earlier receipt will be gratefully appreciated)

Going My Way

ALAN LURIE and RON BOSLEY present "THE BING CROSBY MOVIE FILE"

"GOING MY WAY" - (original title "THE PADRE")

British 'U' Certificate - Original running time 126 mins

Screenplay by Frank Butler & Frank Cavett from a story by Leo McCarey

Director of Photography... ... ... Lionel Linden ASC
Art Direction. ... ... Hans Dreier & William Flannery
Special Photographic Effects.. ... ... Gordon Jennings ASC
Edited by. ... ... Le Roy Stone
Costumes.. ... ... Edith Head
Make Up... ... ... Wally Westmore
Sound Recording... ... ... Gene Merritt & John Cope
Set Decoration ... ... Steve Seymour
Music Direction... ... ... Robert Emmett Dolan
Vocal Arrangements ... ... Joseph J. Lilley
Music Associate... ... ... Troy Sanders
New Songs Lyrics by. ... ... Johnny Burke
New Songs Music by.. ... ... James Van Heusen

Produced and Directed by.. ... LEO McCAREY

A PARAMOUNT PICTURE - Production No.2006

New York Premiere, Paramount Theatre, May 2nd 1944. British General Release, September 18th 1944

CAST

Father O'Malley... ... ... BING CROSBY
Jenny Linden.. ... ... RISE STEVENS
Father Fitzgibbon. ... ... BARRY FITZGERALD
Father O'Dowd. ... ... FRANK McHUGH
Ted Haines Jr. ... ... JAMES BROWN
Ted Haines Sr. ... ... GENE LOCKHART
Carol James... ... ... JEAN HEATHER
Mrs Carmody... ... ... LILY MALYON
Tony Scaponi.. ... ... STANLEY CLEMENTS
Tomaso Bozzani ... ... FORTUNIO BONANOVA
Mrs Quimp. ... ... ANITA BOLSTER
Herman ... ... CARL SWITZER
Mr Belknap ... ... PORTER HALL
First Music Publisher. ... ... WILLIAM FRAWLEY
Second Music Publisher ... ... JACK NORTON
Mother Fitzgibbon. ... ... ADELINE DE WALT REYNOLDS
and THE ROBERT MITCHELL BOYS' CHOIR

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Turn to next page for some facts and information about this film

Produced for less than 1,000,000 dollars, "GOING MY WAY", by 1946, had earned 7,000,000 dollars for Paramount and became one of the biggest box office successes ever made. It won the New York Film Critics accolade as the best film of 1944, McCarey was voted best director and Fitzgerald collected the honours as best supporting performance. Through "GOING MY WAY" Bing was voted the top money-making performer of 1944 by "The American Motion Picture Herald", the first time that a male star had been so honoured.

In March 1945, The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded the following 'OSCARS':-

Best actor of 1944... ... ... Bing Crosby
Best Director ... ... Leo McCarey
Best supporting actor ... ... Barry Fitzgerald
Best Motion Picture.. ... ... "GOING MY WAY"
Best original song... ... ... 'SWINGING ON A STAR"(BURKE/VAN HEUSEN)

As a matter of interest, Ingrid Bergman won the award as Best Actress("GASLIGHT"), Ethel Barrymore was Best Supporting Actress ("NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART") and Margaret O'Brien was Best Child Star ("MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS").

Contempary Reviews of "GOING MY WAY"

American 'LOOK' Bing Crosby and Barry Fitzgerald are superb in this delightful comedy drama.

American 'PIC' In the warmest, most human, and entirely different kind of role, Bing Crosby turns in the finest performance of his career.

British 'NEWS REVIEW' Crosby turns in a grand performance, is the padre any Dead End kid would follow.

British 'PICTUREGOER' Bing Crosby scores in a straight role.....the film allows for some excellent singing, both from Bing Crosby and the boys' choir.

Whilst Bing received a flood of praise for his performance in this film, there were some people who said the award was not deserved....."Bing just played himself" was the usual remark, a point of view which was encouraged by Bing's own modest reactions to the awards and the acclaim.

But of course, Bing's acting potential was fully confirmed in later years, as witness his dramatic performances in such films as "LITTLE BOY LOST" - "THE COUNTRY GIRL" - "MAN ON FIRE" and the more recent "STAGECOACH".

KIERON O' TOOLE (aged 16) writes from Birkenhead, Cheshire, England
Over the past two years I have developed a great admiration for Mr Crosby and have started collecting his recordings, . Because of this I should be most grateful if you would provide me with information regarding the membership of your club.

PHIL ARCHER writes from Mombasa, Kenya
Thank you for your welcome of 23rd Apr67 and subsequent issues of the Golden Years of which the most recently received was the Rudy Vallee number. I may be able to get a lift home with this, to save sending cheques from some of these wily Oriental ports, so if it has a local postmark on it, that's why.
It's just as well we don't have to fill in a questionaire on reasons for subscribing or renewing. I was never particularly keen on dance music, I was a noted non-mourner for Al Bowlly, preferred either Rudy Vallee or Russ Columbo to Bing Crosby, and Frank Sinatra to all of them. And as a chronicler of the Edison era I find the 30's outside my era anyway (the phonograph division of Edison Co went out of production in 1929) Were it necessary to give one or reasons for taking the Golden Years, about the only one I could think of would be that I enjoy it. I am an organ man and find the sections of interest, and there are by-products like the Brunswick record list for instance about which I may not have heard otherwise. While in every bushel of chaff there's a fistful of solid good wheat. I have even noted a couple of facts relevant to the Edison era. While I would'nt swap the Golden for the Gold-Moulded (or the Blue) years. I'd still like to renew my welcome for another 12 months if you'll still have me - Sorry for the absence of press cuttings, but the only civilised port we touch is Durban and that is for only 3 days every two months so I have not got a a great deal of access to papers in general - Phil Archer.

Editors Note
Fools rush in where angels fear to tread-breaking my usual rule never to comment until my own feature apears, I just had to rush in here to explain that Phil's letter really belongs in the Golden Years magazine, and for that purpose I sent it to editor Reg, but not until I had included it here - Phil's a queer lad, it seems funny to receive a letter like this from him, only last Christmas I arranged via a London contact for a special taping of I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS to be sent out to him for a special record show they were planning out there - no-one will begrudge Phil or anyone else their preferences.....but if you join a club.....Hmmmm... well Phil, though you won't be reading this here all I can say is.....it's your money, and the real reason for printing it here is to give us all a chance to examine our concencious - Could you write me a letter like that????????????? and if you could, would you???????

JOHNNY JOYCE writes from Wolverhampton, England
I hope Bing has some success with the new Reprise titles - I was just saying to someone the other day what wonderful backings MICHAEL HOLIDAY always had on his recordings and that if Bing had been recorded with such backings he could not have failed to have had a hit during the past few years, in fact Bing could do worse than an LP of Mikes past hits - here are 12 beauties-

LITTLE BOY LOST..DREAM TALK..STORY OF MY LIFE..IN LOVE..STAIRWAY OF LOVE..PALACE OF LOVE..GAL WITH THE YALLER SHOES..CATCH ME A KISS..DREAM BOY DREAM..WONDERFUL WORLD..I'LL ALWAYS BE IN LOVE WITH YOU..MIRACLE OF MONDAY MORNING

How about it Bing and let NORRY PARAMOR accompany you - Incidentally, in my own opinion the best Bing Crosby record is of course HIS NEXT RELEASE whatever STYLE he may sing in, as any style by Bing is RARE STYLE.

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The ICC has formed many important contacts with many companies and organisions throughout the British Isles- we are very proud of the service we are able to extend to our members through these many associations - JOHNNY JONES wishes to extend the sincere thanks of the club to Mr RONALD BAXTER, a new member of the club and also head of a company we are now dealing with for the provision of many club exclusive offers - We would also like to thank Mr DEAN of HS Floyd and Co for valuable consessions ref duplicator supplies and valuable production advice.

MICHAEL CRAMPTON * I.C.C. REPORT * LEEDS/ENGLAND * APRIL 1968

We drive off in issue number 10 with the great news that JOHN SCOTT TROTTER has confirmed his visit to ENGLAND . He will arrive on Sunday June 24th and stay until Ist July. John wishes to meet the members of the ICC on Sunday June 30th and the venue will either be SALISBURY or LONDON. yet to be confirmed, but we do hope that this will be the grandest meeting of Crosby admirers in the British Isles - When final arrangments are confirmed we will give you full details per sepcial newsletter and members of THE 1930's RECORD SOCIETY and THE CROSBY COLLECTOR will also be invited to attend this special event.

NEW TO ME

In Britain there are three recent Crosby releases-;

BING AND LOUIS MFP 129 Stereo/Mono (10 tracks)
AN AXE, AN APPLE AND A BUCKSKIN JACKET 12" LP
AROUND THE WORLD 7" 45 single MCA (8/3½)

All have been issued before and as yet I don't have the latter two for review. I did however get Bing and Louis and was pleased to add a further great LP to my collection - Quote from CALL ME LUCKY "Louis is wonderful to work with. When you're out there in front of a microphone with him you can thrwo the script away, you don't have to worry about a thing. He is so amusing and so coulourful when he works that everything he does comes over heavily. Even before he comes on, he's got the audience in the palm of his hand. They're ready to enjoy his music. He's a great fellow to stand alongside of. When you can bounce off somebody like that you don't break".

It's true, Louis, just like Bob Hope has you anticipating a good performance even before he speaks. Bing turns up on the really cheap label for the first time, swinging out in jazz style with old buddy Louis Armstrong and unlike the backing for the EL SENOR BING album, Billy May beldns in his music withthe two voices to produce a collection of merit. Sadly, for those who do not possess the first issue this econd release does not contain BYE BYE BLUES - there is compensation however in that the spereophonic effect is particularly good and for 13/11 surely we must buy this one so as to encourage more Bing issues on this label - It is especially interesting to note that the record shops in Leeds are giving the LP big publicity and that one shop has no less than 3 copies in one window.

CROSBY ON RECORD -1926-1950
Published by Mello's Music USA

Again I quote, but this time from the editorial of this 1950 publication.

"There will be more Bing Crosby as time goes by. It is our belief that collectors who keep CROSBY ON RECORD up to date on the blank pages will find themselves listing Bing Crosby hits for an indifinate period of time. though the Groaner has already outdistanced all other recording vocalists in duration and degree of popularity.

18 YEARS LATER

Comment is superficial, but how prophetic do these comments now seem. One of the Co-Compilers of this book, Jack Souther of USA recently mailed me a opy of this publication in mint condition. It was published at 2 Dollars and represented at that time the only?, commercial listing of Bing Crosby records. The listing and photographs (very good) stretch to 101 pages and the recordings are presonted in various forms - eg THE BING CROSBY ORIGINALS...BING FEATURED WITH PAUL WHITEMAN. ..1934-1943 DECCA BLUE LABEL...SIDES ISSUED ONLY IN INDIA AND AUSTRALIA ETC

The recordings are neatly presented and perhaps? we have a preview of what to expect when the complete ROAD TO BING CROSBY discography is published.

cont on page 28

Michael Crampton continues
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Apart from the intrinsic value of this publication it is interesting to note the contributers to this book who are still around after 18 years, Leslie Gaylor, Jack Souther, John Purches. But where are all the other 20 odd collectors. Who for instance was English collector Charles Cowdery. Is he still around. What would he think of the last 18 years so far as Bing is concerned - Would the editors, Edward J Mello and Tom Mc Bride consider publishing an up to date discography. Any collectors of long standing like to comment?

BING AND OTHER THINGS * KATHRYN CROSBY
Meredith Press-New York * 4 Dollars 95 cents

I remember at Cockermouth that Bing said "Kathy will be doing all the writing, writing is too ,uch hard work for me" Fred Romary said recently that Bing has no intention of writing his memoirs "They'll be no memoirs" he is reported as having said - Failing Bing, who better to give us an insite into life with him than his wife - We learn how it was "before Bing" "Life with Bing" "How to marry him", live with him and how to be happy though married. This is comendable writing, a quick pace and the recollections all too short, from the pages, some of Kathryn's personality emerges and a reader will judge just how Bing and Kathy's personalities are agreeable, hence a successful marriage. The book has quality, is unfortunately short, but it is an item of Crosbyana you should not miss

SHARING OUR INTEREST IN BING
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I know from writing to my friends in Australia and America that they would like and welcome the opportunity to gather together and share an evening listening and talking about Bing. But, alas, distances in these two large continents usually have kept collectors apart. In England we have been lucky to have such gatherings twice yearly for many years - On 27th March 1968 Vic Gilmore came across from Hull to listen to Bing, discuss his work and Croshyma. Vic's particular interest is the early 30's period and he lamented at not having those early Columbia's, just as I lament. Vic explained how he had a elective collection of early material and that he had managed his records on a very restricted budget. In the evening Ken Hoyle of Harrogate, George and Renee Smith of Keighley and their friend Tom Smith of Lothersdale and prospective member David Chappell of Leeds visited. Their choice, the early 30's so that was the music that predominated. Amongst the sides heard were ONCE IN A BLUE MOON, STAY ON THE RIGHT SIDE , TWO CIGARETTES IN THE DARK, TILL WE MEET, and BLUE PRELUDE. This record we rated as one of the greatest recordings of all time - we enjoyed some chicken sandwiches and cakes and tea and gave a spin to BING AND LOUIS. At a later hour these great Bing admirers went home, having shared their interest with others - It was my pleasure to be their host.

THOSE MISSING RECORDS
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In the last issue I lamented about not having the Singalong albums. Quick to my rescue came pal Eddie Rice and I am pleased to report that these discs are now on their way from the States.

Finally, I thought it might be of interest for you to know the following facts which I have from THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY - discography
NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL RECORDINGS BY BING CROSBY - ie Recordings with a seperate matrix number - the final figures are the actual number of sides I still need.

PERIOD	RECORDINGS	MISSINGS SIDES
Oct 1926 - Nov 1930	120	Most
Jan 1931 - Jul 1934	113	41
Aug 1934 - Sep 1943	366	41
Oct 1943 - Mar 1951	409	37
Apr 1951 - May 1966	515	20

40 years in-between 1 and 1523, this is testimony to Bing's greatness and his admirers loyalty and devotion to his art - Of all these recordings I think, I FOUND YOU cannot be beaten, but this is another story and until we meet again,

"ALOHA" Michael Crampton

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* CROSBY SHOPPE *
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PLATINUM "PREMIER BALL POINT PEN (engraved silver leaf foil)"THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE" complete with one refill - price 1/6 each - order from Frank Murphy

PLATINUM "PREMIER NAME SET BALL POINT PENS - set of 4 pens engraved BING CROSBY (silver leaf foil) complete with 4 refills and plastic pocket case - price 7/- order from Frank Murphy

UNBREAKABLE COMBS in plastic case engraved THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE CIRCLING THE UNIVERSE in Gold Leaf Foil - comb 5" Course and Fine teeth for both Men/Ladies - Tortoise-shell colour - 1/6 each - order from Frank Murphy

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE WALL PLAQUE - this magnificient Crosby emblem is already adorning the home of our secretary and is a must for all lovers of Crosby-ana - a top quality product in polished wood and symbolising the doves of peace and scroll lettered THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE - and is available to special order only - please write to Frank Murphy indicating your interest. When we have a clear picture of how many plaques we require we shall then circulise those members with details and prices of what is without a doubt the finest possible souvenir we have ever offered.

CLUB TIE - with special circular emblem THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE - this tie is already being worn by Johnny Jones, Keith Hyde, Frank Murphy, among others and is of the highest possible quality - price and details from Johnny Jones.

DON'T MISS "CROSBY SHOPPE" Next issueother special lines under consideration include PERSONAL BING CROSBY STAMPS for your letters and envelopes - full details of these and other exciting items in the next issue of "BING" - You really can't afford to miss these and other special offers from the I.C.C. The Top Club in Clubland withthe most go-ahead magazine around

CROSBY SHOPPE appears by courtesy of JOHNNY JONES - Northern Ireland

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BING IN "THE HOLLYWOOD PALACE

Bob Roberts 56 Thorold Road, Chatham Kent offers a complete tape service of these shows which feature Bing and top line guest artists - a full ist is available from Bob - Tapes cost £2 per 7" reel (Myler) UK and 50/- overseas, prices include postage - The following show is especially recommended - send the above amount now to Bob for early delivery of;-

THE HOLLYWOOD PALACE 13 December 1966 BING CROSBY, KATE SMITH, BOB NEWHART, THE CROSBY FAMILY - Bing sings HAPPY HOLIDAY, CHRISTMAS WALTZ, WHITE CHRISTMAS, WINTER MEDLEY with Kate Smith, CHRISTMAS CAROL MEDLEY with The Crosby Family.

A full list of Film Soundtracks will also be available in the next issue of "BING"

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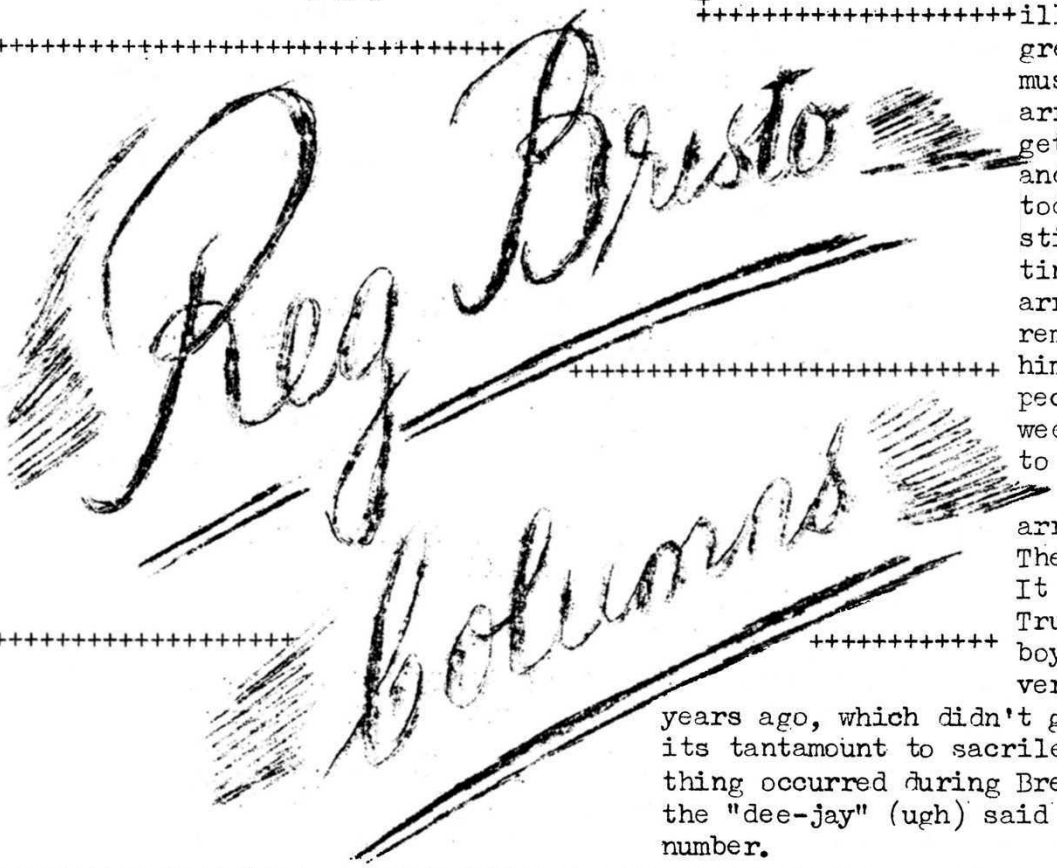
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEXT ISSUE

"I have begged lifts in coal lorries, butchers vans, milk floats, and even had a lift so far in a hearse" - So writes ERIC PARKER who tells the whole atory of his admiration for BING CROSBY in the next issue of "BING"

THE



Sid Phillips - one of the illustrious, all-time greats of British dance music. Sax-clarinet, star arranger with the unforgettable Ambrose Orchestra and still going strong today with his own band, still playing those distinctive, "jumping", arrangements.....I remember him and regard him with tremendous respect. But a couple of weeks back I was shattered to hear him and his band play a Dixieland arrangement of.....Where The Blue of the Night! It had me "all pewtrified". True, one of the Crosby boys did a modern "pop" version of it a couple of years ago, which didn't get far.....but to me, its tantamount to sacrilege! This dreadful thing occurred during Breakfast Special....and the "dee-jay" (ugh) said it was "an old Crosby number.

+ A letter from a younger reader says "...I snapped up the Hallmark album, although I had several of the tracks on it. But I was astonished to find that the version of 'Please' was totally different to the one I've had for years....."

+ This young fella is about to be caught up in the most insidious trap in Crosby-collecting! From different versions you progress to different takes, then different labels. The field is almost limitless! But I'm joking, of course. The answer to his query, actually, is well-known to the older collectors, e.g. Bing re-made many of his earlier hits many years afterwards, songs like the one mentioned, "Blue of the Night", "It Must Be True", "Million Dollar Baby", "Stardust" and others. They were re-recorded in most cases with the musical direction by John Scott Trotter - with, what is the word? - more finesse? At any rate, the newer versions were minus the tremendous early 30's vigour, the boo-boo-boo, and happy-go-lucky "scat" singing.

+ On reflection, I think finesse isn't a bad appraisal. Furthermore, in most cases Bing didn't sing the verses the second time around. Inevitably, there are those who prefer the more mature, established, re-makes - and just as many who swear by the original versions. The choice is yours, and yours alone.

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+ Another point regarding a Breakfast Special. I had the radio on quietly, merely to check the time as usual, when I was sure I heard Bing singing. I turned up the volume - and it was Mr. C. alright. But I didn't know the number! I listened to the most recurring line and then made a bee-line for the discography. Nothing doing. I was sorely puzzled - then the penny dropped!

+ It was "Step To The Rear"! Most extraordinary for it was only a few days after I had a letter from Les Gaylor enthusiastically as always giving me details of Bing's contemporary "session". I just couldn't understand how the B.B.C. had got hold of it so early, seeing that it was not issued here - not then, anyway. Was it Leslie's copy?

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+ Bing's new single!! Oh my goodness - it seems to have put the cat among the pigeons, doesn't it? Cries of outraged horror - to those who mildly suggest its not too bad if you

(Cont. over

play it several times, i.e. you "plug" it if only to yourself. My opinion? Well, I must confess that I am pleased and relieved that what I originally thought - and wrote but luckily tore up - has been modified to a certain extent. Words like "grotesque" and"ludicrous" came to my mind involuntarily! Even "ill-advised"! In this connection, I just had to smile when I heard that ol' Leslie Gaylor had promptly written to chide Sonny Burke on the general production of this record!

+ However, the numbers do improve on listening, which is of course, the main reason why today's record industry in most cases pays so much attention to "plugging". Once upon a time a song "hit" you right away - once in a while even today it still happens. But mostly considerable plugging is required. Why, even moronic T.V. jingles go round and round in one's brain through continuous listening to them. Radio Caroline, by the way, the last of the "pop" pirates kept going in its last weeks simply by pop groups paying it £150 a week to play their latest record five times a week, according to one paper I read.

+ Granted, therefore, that the more you listen to this new Reprise single the more tolerable it becomes,within limits, it still occurs to me that all the things that made - and make - Bing's voice the wondrous, unique, thing it is are just not necessary for numbers of this kind. Comparable, perhaps, to using a Rolls Royce engine to power a refuse-cart, or a thoroughbredd racehorse to pull a milk-float.

+ But just to illustrate, perhaps, the difference between the generations (as if the last few years haven't told us a thousand times!) my 17-year-old daughter came in as "What Do We Do With The World" was playing. She stopped dead in her tracks, then her shoulders drooped, her hips began swaying, and that strange ritual which goes for dancing nowadays set in. "What a fabulous record!" she exclaimed - then after listening a bit longer: "Is that BING?" What, where, when, she wanted to know, all at the same time. She is convinced it is terrific, and has since borrowed it to take to a party. Ah well.

+ It was certainly a nostalgic experience to buy a Crosby single again - although buying it proved extremely difficult, alas . Relevant to what was said above regarding plugging records, my experience was that far from plugging it the idea seemed to be to keep its issue a closely-guarded secret! Although regularly in record shops I say quite definitely that if it wasn't for the special information we get through the I.C.C. and its members I would have had no idea of its existence. One is bound to wonder why records are made if not the slightest effort to publicise it is made.

+ I suppose I visited at least eight shops before I ran it to earth - and had some intriguing encounters in the process. I started off by asking "Do you have Reprise singles?" If the answer was in the affirmative I asked for 20645. One young lady wanted further detail: "Who's it by?" she asked. "Bing Crosby," says I. An older woman , perhaps the manageress, said "A Bing Crosby single! No sir. Haven't had them for years - we sell a fair bit of Bing but singles....." with a slightly pityingly smile. "But this is a new issue," I countered.
+"A new one?" said the good lady and hastily consulted a list. "Well, you're quite right, but I am surprised. Fancy that - a single from Bing." Perhaps her atitude was understandable, but it just illustrates what I'm trying to say. She wanted to order it for me but I went on the offensive! "Oh, I'm bound to get it in town somewhere," I said, "thanks all the same."
+ Incidentally, at the shop where I did get it I was served by a young lad of about 17. He was doubtful, but on going through the shelf he found it. For the first time ever, I asked if I could hear it, simply because I hadn't heard it before - except for that half-listen on the radio. Although, then, feeling slightly downcast at it I returned to the counter, and there was of course no question of not taking it. This boy said "I shall have to listen to this one, sir - I don't think I've seen a Bing Crosby single before." I remarked that it was rather revolutionary but for me Bing remained Bing. "Oh, I know all about Bing," replied the lad, "he's terrific. I hear him a lot at home - but I didn't know he made new singles!" Nice boy, that.

+ "Step To The Rear",which owing to the intrusive "chorus",sounded more like a singalong effort in most places. The kindest thing I can think about this song is that it probably soundsbetter when seen and heard in the context of the show from which it comes.

GREAT DAYS, THESE FOR CROSBY COLLECTORS:

+ Having got what, perhaps, I may be allowed to call a mini-grumble out of the way, I can easily return to my more cheerful state of mind. M.F.P. have acted with commendable speed in issuing BING & SATCHMO on their famous 12s. 6d. label. The picture of the immortal pair on the sleeve is worth that! It is, of course, one of the M.G.M. records that M.F.P. have acquired, though it is minus two of the original 12 tracks. The sleeve notes, by Roger St. Pierre, describe Bing as "the most distinguished voice in pop" - which strikes me as very nice, an elegant, dignified way of describing Mr. Crosby.

+ Bing and Satchmo were reminiscing aloud and musically during these tracks. Two immortals making it sound so easy. What a chuckle when Louis refers to "these old chops" anent his embrouchure! "Swing the Tiger - that's A/ Plenty" indeed yes.

DARDANELLA:

+ When talking, in the last issue, about Anzacs, the Dardanelles and Suvla Bay, I mentioned that I hadn't heard Dardanella sung. Now, of course, I have - and the lyric does to an extent bear on those harrowing days. Incidentally, Mick Drury and several others wrote to me to say how well they remembered "The Sun Shines Bright On Charlie Chaplin" as a parody on Pretty Redwing, who was indeed an Indian maid in the original, traditional, version of the song, or rather, poem - as it was then.

+ So, the incredible thing today is that Crosby records seem to be coming thicker and faster than ever! Great days for those with big gaps in their collections.

+ I think, before leaving the M.F.P., that "Dardanella" given the right treatment of presentation at the time of original issue, could and should have been very big indeed. I wonder, too, if a smaller accompanying outfit under Louis' direction wouldn't have benefitted the album. Billy May comes second only to Buddy Bregman as my most unfavourite director and arranger. In any case, with very few exceptions (such as the original Bobcats) big bands are not really suitable for Dixieland music.

HEARD ON RADIO:

+ As indicated at the start, my listening to radio these days is confined almost entirely to listening somewhat inattentively to Breakfast Special - but I have noticed that Miss Anita Harris, one of our more tuneful modern singers, (and nice to look at!) has discovered Bing's "Anniversary Waltz" of July 1941 vintage. I must confess she sings it very nicely - and quite straight. This was a very big song for Bing - probably another million-seller they forgot to count.

+ Also, again on this early morning programme I heard the Johnny Mann Singers doing a "hep" version of "Mississippi Mud"! And reverting to M.F.P. the much-talked of "reunion" of the Rhythm Boys with themselves and Paul Whiteman is featured in this same number on another M.F.P. album - Pops Rembers, his 50th Anniversary, i.e. 1954.

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THOROUGHLY MODERN BING:

I'm sure there will be a wealth of detail concerning the continuing exciting news of Bing's recording activities in this issue. And the startling news that Mr. C. had cut 13 highly promising titles for Pickwick on two days only in February must cap everything. Pickwick International in this country issue on the "cheap" 10s. Allegro label, but they do also, apparently, issue a more expensive label, and it is for this latter that Bing has cut these titles. Let us keep our fingers crossed that Pickwick will have some ideas on selling their products! Fred Romary gave us a very graphic account of the recording session, and the reactions of the hard-bitten professionals in the band that accompanied Bing. They were left somewhat agape, I gather, at the ease with which such a programme was put "in the can". Fred has actually heard the tracks and reports Bing in tremendous form - and voice. Makes all the difference when you know there is something good in the pipe-line, recordwise.

+ Most of our newspapers carried the picture of Bing, Bob & Rocky Marciano at the opening of the new Madison Square Garden arena. But they didn't fill in the hilarious details our New York correspondent did (yes, that's Fred Romary again!) Seems the pair of them, Bing and Bob, continue to astound all and sundry with their wisecracking, both on an off stage.

+ But the really stunning news is that there is a distinct possibility of the pair coming here again this year to make yet another Road film! I know, like me, quite a few will be hoping that here at last is a chance to realise their ambition - AND MEET BING HIMSELF.

+ Finally, in this round-up, we hear Bing is considering an album with - Vicki Carr ? Is this young lady "fab"? Which reminds me - CRESCENDO, the jazz monthly, for March reveals that "Travellin' Two Beat", is being issued

by the World Record Club in conjunction with Capitol. The Club have previously issued "Best of Bing Crosby", i.e. with Buddy Bregman.

+ Commenting on this release, the writer remarked that "probably one of the finest vocal teams ever - Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney - became anachronistic almost at its inception." No doubt he meant that good singing became unfashionable.

N.B. "Anachronistic" - out of its time, usually meaning old-fashioned, althogh not necessarily. One of our brilliant younger members was disconcerted a few months ago when he was referred to (not here) as anachronistic. In his case, it meant that it was unusual for such a young man to be such a devoted fan of Bing Crosby. We had quite a discussion on the meaning of the word - and I fancy he was a little relieved to know that it wasn't insulting!

P.S. If this sounds patronising - and a slight on your knowledge of words and their meaning - I looked it up in the dictionary to be sure.

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+ Can't help feeling there must be some fans of Bing's on the editorial staff of the weeky paper, WEEKEND. Following their fine coloured pictures of Bing and Gary a few months ago - with the unsavoury melodramatic story of Gary's drinking - they followed it up recently with some fine pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Crosby, and a very full story on Kathy's book.

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BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

+ I've often thought that if there had been no Bing Crosby I would probably have settled for classical music! But, did you hear of the man who loved classical music - and Bing. He managed to combine the best of both worlds by using the following titles:

Verdi the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day.

Bizet Doing Nothing.

Lizt While I Tell You of the Spaniard that Blighted My Life.

Take Me Bach To My Boots & Saddle.

I Won't weary you with others - but no doubt you get the idea.

A LETTER FROM BING

+ What a fine letter that was that Les Gaylor received from the Maestro - and how nice that Leslie immediately offers it for all to see, not in the manner of "Look what I've got - a letter from Bing" so much, as a desire for us, I feel, to see the great news it contained as regards the Pickwick recording.

+ It never fails to amuse and astonish me that Bing has to be told what records of his are being issued! And then Mr. Co. says he has forgotten he had done some of the numbers - "of course, some of them were made so long ago it's understandable that I would have forgotten..."

+ Geoff. Milne must have felt some gratification that Bing too was pleased with his knowledgeable sleeve notes on "Rare Style".

+ But there was one thing about that letter from Mr. C. that really captivated me. You remember Bing was most sympathetic to some of the things we've had to endure in the U.K. this winter, saying "....I hope you're having some good weather there this winter. England has been plagued enough with the devaluation of the pound and the hoof and mouth disease and one thing and another....."

+ HOOF & MOUTH! Of course, that's a much more apposite name for this dread disease. Bing is noted for his phraseology, but it may be in this case all Americans use that description. One thing is certain - its far more descriptive and accurate than our "foot-and-mouth" disease. We never refer to a cow's foot, do we?

+ I suppose the answer is that English pedantry took cognizance of the term and decided it was the most all-embracing, seeing that the disease can occur among pigs and other animals. Then, to be scrupulously accurate we would have had "trotter-and-mouth" disease, as well as "hoof and mouth". So they probably settled for "foot and mouth".

+ This friendly letter showed an acute awareness of what is happening, on Bing's part, to his thousands of his admirers on this side of the Atlantic.

+ It was rather a shock recently when gold was "on the run" to discover that America itself, always imagined to be the land of high-living and plenty of money, may have been in trouble with its economy. No doubt it won't be long

 A LETTER FROM BING (Cont.)

before Bob Hope is publicly declaring that President Johnson has approached Bing for a loan to help out the U.S. Treasury!

+ Yet, as I complete these pages for the April issue, the news from across the Atlantic wastruly grievous and startling - the Assassination of Luther King closely following the declaration of "include me out" by President Johnson. On top of the war in Vietnam these are momentous events, particularly the assassination. We hear of rioting and looting in frenzied rage in 50 of America's largest cities. Politics and race relations are not appropriate perhaps to our magazine, but devoted as it is to one of America's greatest citizens, we can at least reciprocate his very kind wishes to us through Leslie Gaylor, and hope that the troubles have no personal effect on him and his family.

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========== THE B.B.C. PROVES IT'S POINT ==========

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+ Many people have, of recent years, castigated the B.B.C. for a large part of its programmes, suggesting that it caters for morons by presenting moronic programmes, especially in the popular music line. How they must be smiling now! The B.B.C. planners, I mean.

+ On April Fools Day, the announcer said ".....and now for Engelbert Humperdinck!" There followed some authentic Humperdinck music from "Hanzel & Gretel" by, if I remember rightly, those Manchester schoolchildren of many years back. Great stuff.

+ Within five minutes the B.B.C. had received a score or so of bitterly disappointed complaints on the telephone, asking what happened to Engelbert Humperdinck? Can you credit it? What a frightening commentary on the listening public - or a large part of it. No wonder the B.B.C. pump out rubbish ad. nauseum.

+ Humperdinck's Hansel & Gretel - and at 8 o'c in the morning a large number of people can rush to their telephones and complain because they hadn't heard the new-style Engelbert singing "The Last Waltz". No wonder the B.B.C. can say, with confdence, that they have their finger on the public pulse when we write to them complaining about rubbish.....

+ But that doesn't deter me from complaining! What brilliant programme-planning put Bing and Tony Thompson on the air in the HOME SERVICE at 9.35 in the morning? Do they think anyone interested is in retirement, lounging around the house at that time of day? As a matter of fact, being informed of the broadcast I went off to work convinced that it was 9.35 in the evening that Bing was going to be heard. By a series of coincidences I not only discovered in was in the morning - but I was able to listen to it, or most of it, on a car radio.

+ Bing was in great reminiscing form, with constant deep-throated chuckles interspersing his now-famous philosophical comments. Who is Tony Thompson? I don't know, but apparently the programme was recorded in Los Angeles. It was a real delight, lasting 40 minutes. The records I heard were "Without A Song" from way, way, back in 1927, "Its The Natural Thing To Do" and that great duet with Fred Astaire "A Couple of Song-and-Dance Men". Commenting that Bob Hope really was his great friend - and their families - Bing firmly stated that Bob has more money than he, Bing, has! (So little am I in touch with current B.B.C. programmes I had to enquire, also, what was Radio 4!)

+ Perhaps if we all write to the B.B.C. the programme could be repeated at a more convenient, evening, hour.

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+ Chiefly on account of my daughter, we've played "What Do We Do With the World" etc. more than I expected. I feel most of us have been a little unkind for the lyrics at least are very good. Perhaps it was this that appealed to Bing. Trouble is, unlike any other Bing record since 1926, the words are not immediately clear and apparent. AND, as it was I that caustically enquired if anyone had heard Jack Jackson play a Crosby record - producing a 20-year-old memory from Arnold Pope in Manchester - it is only fair to record that he has played a side of this Reprise single on three consecutive programmes. Perhaps he feels this record has come down to (or up to) his programme level. Perhaps he thought it was Dean Martin! No doubt I'm an ingrate at that....

THE LEGEND ON THOUSANDS OF RECORDS:

"BING CROSBY"

"Accompanied By....."

By whom, indeed. Orchestras, bands, trios, ensembles of all kinds, organs and solo pianos. There was the time when, due to a musicians strike Bing recorded with a choir and no instrumentalists whatsoever. Naturally, I am speaking only of commercial recordings, for manifestly it would be quite impossible to make a list with every combination that Bing has ever been accompanied by. For example, on troop ships and in theatres of war no doubt he sung, in impromptu fashion, with all sorts of probably unknown groups. Then again, he has probably been accompanied by orchestras in radio and T.V. shows which have not appeared with him on commercial recordings. Apart from John Scott Trotter, Buddy Cole, &c. of course.

+ But just how many such accompanying units were there? Most collectors know that it is a considerable number - but is it scores or hundreds? Try and name a score of Bing's accompanists, just for exercise and knowledge. Then consider the following list, given in alphabetical order. I don't think anyone has been omitted - but I'm sure our lynx-eyed readers will quickly point out any omissions. As always, they will be welcome. Another point; this deals with instrumentalist accompaniments (at this stage, anyway) and does not include duettists, vocal groups and choirs - of which, too, there has been a fair number. Bands and orchestras unless indicated otherwise:

++++++++++++++++++

1. Aaronson, Irving.
2. Arnheim, Gus.
3. Bando da Lua.
4. Bargy, Roy.
5. Barbour, Dave.
6. Barris, Harry (piano).
7. Blackton, Jay.
8. Botkin, Perry.
9. Brown, Les.
10. Bregman, Buddy.
11. Burke, Sonny.
12. Carmichael, Ralph.
13. Caramato Orchestra.
14. Cavallaro, C. (piano)
15. Clark, Don.
16. Cleave, Van, Nathan.
17. Cole, Buddy (piano, trio, orch)
18. Condon, Eddie.
19. Crawford, Helen, (organ).
20. Crosby, Bob. (orch & Bobcats)
21. Cugat, Xavier.
22. Darby, Ken.
23. Ditmars, Ivan (piano).
24. Dorsey Brothers.
25. Dorsey, Jim.
26. Dorsey, Tom.
27. Dunstedter, Eddie (organ and Orch. A.A.F.)
28. Durand, Paul.
29. Ellington, Duke.
30. Ellis, Ray.
31. Engel, Lehman (incl. Ethel Smith organ).
32. Faith, Percey (though unissued).
33. Farnon, Robert.
34. Finston, Nat W.
35. Freeman, Ernie.
36. Green, Johnny.
37. Grier, Jimmy.
38. Haggart, Bob.
39. Halloran, Jack.
40. Hampton, Lionel.
41. Hayton, Lennie (piano, trio, and orch.)
42. Herman, Woody.
43. Heusen, Van, Jimmy (piano)
44. Heywood, Eddie.
45. Ipana Troubadours.
46. Jones, Isham.

"BING CROSBY, Accompanied By...." (Cont).

47. Jordan, Louis.
48. Justis, Bill.
49. Keating, Johnny.
50. King, Pete.
51. Kreuger, Bennie.
52. Lanin, Sam.
53. Lilly, Joseph.
54. Lockyer, Malcolm.
55. Lombardo, Guy.
56. MacIntire, Dick.
57. MacIntire, Lani.
58. Malneck, Matty.
59. Martin, Grady.
60. Matlock, Matty.
61. May, Billy.
62. Morgan, Russ.
63. Murray, Lyn.
64. Newman, Alfred.
65. Norman, Arthur.
66. Oliver, Sy.
67. Owens, Harry.
68. Paradise Island Trio.
69. Paul, Les, (trio and guitar).
70. Piastro, Mishel.
71. Pleis, Jack.
72. Rady, Simon.
73. Redman, Don.
74. Riddle, Nelson.
75. Schoen, Victor.
76. Scobey, Bob.
77. Sosnick, Harry.
78. Stoll, Georgie.
79. Stoloff, Morris.
80. Stordahl, Axel.
81. Teagarden, Jack.
82. Thompson, Bob.
83. Trotter, Scott, John. (orch. Fraying-Pan Five, Dixieland Eight, &c.)
84. Trumbauer, Frankie.
85. Venuti, Joe.
86. Vol, de, Frank.
87. Waring, Fred.
88. Weeks, Anson.
89. Weston, Paul.
90. Whiteman, Paul.
91. Young, Victor (with Jascha Heifetz, violin on one occasion).

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+ So - I make it no less than ninety-one different accompanying units on commercial records. No prizes, I'm afraid, for pointing out omissions, but I repeat, they will be welcomed. The higher bracket of Crosby collectors may find it interesting if not absorbing, to name just one record for each of the illustrious names above. And an illustrious list of musical history it makes, I feel.

+ There are, of course, some notable omissions yet one has to think hard to name them. While it is true Bing was accompanied by Louis Armstrong and the All-Stars in the "High Society" tracks - or some of them - its strange that Bing never recorded with a Louis outfit in "the good old days". I know Satchmo sang with Bing both in "Pennies From Heaven" on record, and did "Gone Fishin'", as well as the L.P. album - but there appears to be no record of Bing with Louis Armstrong & his Band earlier on.

+ Benny Goodman? Well, a bit of controversy has raged as to Benny's association with Bing, but not as a bandleader. Fletcher Henderson, the Casa Loma Orchestra are a couple of leading bands that come to mind that were not associated with Bing on record - but I repeat, one has to think hard, without records, to name them. "Fats" Waller, for instance.

+ Death has inevitably taken its toll in the above list, but even so, its surprising how many of even the older ones, are still happily with us.

+ Some of these outfits merely made the odd record appearance with Bing, bht it needs no research to name John Scott Trotter as Bing's most frequent accompaniest. Victor Young, too, has been an early and long-time associate of Bing's on wax.

+ The list might have included the Mills Brothers on the strength of the one guitar!

+ I think the list illustrates, also, the decline on record of the "name" dance band, obviously since rock 'n 'roll, etc. took over. John Scott Trotter apart, consider the Dorsey Bros., Guy Lombardo, Bob Crosby, Jimmy Grier, Paul Whiteman himself, Woody Herman, etc. True of recent years there has been Nelson Riddle, Billy May, and many others, but one thinks of them as musical directors, mainly for the studio. And with light orchestras more than dance orchestras. Duke Ellington, of course, is going strong today, phenomenally so, perhaps, and other large orchestras such as Count Basie and Buddy Rich - but again, one doesn't think of them as dance bands - with the vocal chorus! Ah, that magic phrase which introduced Bing and so many lesser but nevertheless, fine popular singers of popular songs

+ From an unidentified supplier of "vocal refrains" our Mr. Crosby so caught the world by the ears that all the 91 names listed above were honoured to have Bing sing with them Its a mightly long road, too, from "I've Got the Girl" to "Step to the Rear".

AH! MY FAVOURITE BING CROSBY RECORD ....

This could go on for years - and I don't think anyone would really mind!

+ As many of you will be aware, there are a number of vintage record catalogues which circulate round the country - indeed, they go far and wide round the world. These list hundreds of old vintage 78's, and naturally Crosby records are prominently displayed therein. A few weeks ago in such a catalogue I spotted the following entry:

Bruns. 02678: Mexicali Rose / Let Me Whisper I Love You (Bing's best two?)

+ Well, its an intriguing query to add to an advertisement, and seemed to call for further comment. Mind you, its a fine record of 1938 vintage with John Scott Trotter providing the accompaniment on both sides. Mexicali Rose has appeared on many albums, but Let Me Whisper (or Murmullo) has not been prolifically issued. They are of the period of "Don't Be That Way", "Home on the Range" (second time around version), "Sweet Hawaiian Chimes", "When Mother Nature Sings Her Lullaby" &c. So you get some idea of the voice period.

+ It happened that the name of the advertiser was known to me slightly, and as he had a couple of other 78's I liked, I wrote to him. I'm glad to say I had the records I wanted very quickly - and in response to my suggestion that he enlarge, perhaps, on his advertisement, included the following in his most cordial reply:

+ ".....regarding Mexicali Rose and Let Me Whisper I Love You, I do think that these two numbers together on one record represent the highest possible value that one could obtain of Bing. Of course, in each case he has the superb and immaculate support of John Scott Trotter's orchestra. I don't think there is much doubt that it was during his period of association with this orchestra (middle 30's - early 40's) that Bing was at his best. I think Bing retained his technique after the War, but either lost the natural singing qualities of his voice - or became lazy. Just in case the foregoing qualifications brings forth storms of protest let me say that at his best Crosby was undoubtedly the King of them all. When I started on this letter I had no intention of dwelling on the merits of Mr. Crosby. But you started it!" Before leaving Bing, perhaps you'll be interested in the enclosed strip from the 'Evering Standard', dated 3rd December, 1936. You'll note that both he and Rudy Vallee were scheduled to broadcast within a couple of hours of each other on the same station - Schenectady. I found this piece of newspaper the other day whilst lifting up the lino in our bedroom...!"

+ Interesting, is it not? The gentlemen is not a member of the I.C.C. - and I know full well his views would create controversy. But I haven't used them for that reason, but just as an illustration of what one person is thinking of Bing these days. There are all sorts of opinions on these lines, so as I say, we'll not stir up further arguments.

+ Of course, Bing's association with John Scott started in July 1937 and carried on well past the mid-40's - to 1954, in fact.

LITTLE ACCLAIMED RECORDS:

+ Film songs - for certain - carols, Western songs, Hawaiian songs, in fact all songs that can be categorized not only stand an excellent chance of appearing on reissued albums, but probably have. There were some "odd men out" of course, on the Old Masters, Volumes 1, 2 and 3. But there is still a legion of wonderful records by Bing Crosby that have not, and are unlikely to be, reissued - which is a tremendous pity. Furthermore, the collector himself is only made newly-aware of these classics if and when he embarks on a nostalgic journey through a pile of old 78's. Typical of these little-acclaimed records is one I've never heard nominated as possibly Bing's best. Yet, it may well be that a lot of people will write to me saying"Get-away-with-you, its been my favourite for years!" I wonder - and hope so!

+ The record is MAYBE, with Victor Young providing the accompaniment. If you haven't played this record in ages - play it today. If you haven't got it, I apologise for aggravating you! This is a song you don't have to have "plugged" before you begin to like it. Its an unpretentious little song, with a haunting, poignant, quality. Bing sings it with tremendous artistry, with all

the slides, breaks, etc. that are forever Crosby. The sort of song, I imagine, that brought forth caustic domestic comments about "radio's romantic baritone". Great that they never deterred Bing!

+ The accompaniment directed by Victor Young is superb, too. Indeed, this is a record where you can hear clearly the surge of cellos unless I'm very much mistaken. A wonderful arrangement, entirely sympathetic to Bing's rendition. Furthermore, the melody is one that lingers in the brain after only one hearing. Easily one of Gershwin's most melodious compositions. It came, apparently, from a film "Oh! Kay" which I'm afraid I don't remember. As a further pointer in its favour, "Maybe" was actually recorded on the same day as Bing's own favourite record, "Isle of Golden Dreams" - 13th June, 1939.
+ This date probably explains why the record wasn't the thumping hit it deserved to be - for it would have reached here around September 1939, and we all know what was happening then. The reverse side? "Somebody Loves Me" which was indeed nominated as the "B" side.

+ This "Maybe" by Gershwin, by the way, is not the same song that was such a big hit for The Ink Spots around 1940. Seems odd there is no copyright on song titles yet if one thinks about it, it would be quite impossible to enforce, particularly when Ken MacManus tells me he alone has access to 4-million popular songs! There are other song-title duplications which spring to mind. "Would You" for example, the waltz-song of the early 30's, and the song of the same name Bing recorded many years later. The first one, for my money, being much the finer song. Not only this, you will know that Bing actually recorded two different songs with the same name on the same album - "I Never Knew" on "Some Fine Old Chestnuts".
+ Actually "Maybe" has appeared on an album - but if you haven't got it now you probably never will get it for it was one of the now long-deleted 10" l.p.'s. I hope you have Maybe - play it today and see if you agree with my assessment.

IN CONNECTION WITH MY ARTICLE ON PAGE 35, "BING CROSBY...Accompanied by....." I have the okay from Editor Frank to go ahead on a series for BING in which I will list the actual records made by these accompanists with Bing. Naturally, in some cases the records were few and four or five could be dealt with in one issue. But for John Scott Trotter, particularly, it would run into many pages. for his was easily the most durable of all Bing's musical associations. The review of John Scott will appear in the next issue, together with all the records listed whereon he accompanied Bing. Any objectors? If so, now is the time to say so!

EDITORS NOTE;-
Reg, I don't think anyone will object to the forthcoming listings, and may I say how very interesting I personally found the first one in this issue - keep up the good work - the bigger we are, the more we have to learn.....

ADVERT from FRED TETLOW, 30 Cromer Road, Southampton. Hants, England.

"Hey - You Crosby collectors. Are certain characters holding you to ransome by offering the Australian EP IT'S A GOOD DAY, on auction? - they are? - then don't bite - I will sell you the record at a fair price - ie - £1, plus 1/- postage. This gives me a fair deal and you get a square deal. If you are unlucky this time, don't worry, I have more copies coming in and they will still be at the same price - In case ypu don't know the titles they are as follows - IT'S A GOOD DAY..ALOHA MEANS I LOVE YOU..NEW ASHMOLEAN.,MUSIC OF HOME

A highlight of the next issue will be a special group heading THE FRED ROMARY COLUMN in which it is hoped to be able to group all of Fred's highly readable writings under one heading, similar to the successful format of LESLIE GAYLOR and REG BRISTO. items already scheduled are BECAUSE MY BABY DON'T MEAN MAYBE NOW..a delightful story about Kathryn. And UNDER THE DOUBLE 'R' featuring Bing and THE HOLLYWO D PALACE.

"BING CROSBY....IS GREATLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECORDING BUSINESS BECOMING ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT INDUSTRIES.....IN RESPECT AND GRATITUDE" - HOLLYWOOD CHAMBER OF TRADE, June 9, 1960..... So runs the citation on the unique platinum disc that was awarded Bing.

Oh! Dem Golden Records!

"In respect and gratitude". That is quite a citation. I imagine there are many artists, particularly among the present-day so-called "pop" stars, to whom the record companies feel gratitude. There are some great artists who, alas, do not sell many records - operatic and other classical artistes - for whom the companies feel respect. It must be unique to be able to apply both those qualities to one artist - BING CROSBY.

+ The platinum disc is probably among Bing's most valued possessions. It atones, perhaps, for the sketchy treatment Mr. C. has received in the way of golden-records. It seems to be accepted that Bing has achieved twenty-two such records, indicating that sales of a million have been achieved for a particular record. The main source of this information is the Daily Mail Book of Golden Discs.

+ It is my firm conviction that Bing's sales are probably quite incalculable. This book does, in all honesty, reveal that quite often the companies haven't kept too strict a record, and when they have, do not reveal any inclination to divulge them. So the compilers were up against it in many cases. In these circumstances the book is a creditable achievement....but in the case of Bing Crosby, I'm sure it is way off the true situation. When one considers the scores of countries in which Crosby records have been issued, even if records had been kept, it would have been a monumental task to collate them into one, unanswerable, accurate, assessment. For example, the book gives "Sweet Leilani", recorded in 1937, as Bing's first million-seller - and it took until 1941 to reach that figure! Allowing for the fact that circumstances have changed out of all recognition this last ten years, owing to the "affluence" of the youth of the world and the quite unbelievable exploitation of the "pop" world, and remembering that when Bing really got going, gramophones or radiograms were nothing like as common as they are today, it is still well night impossible to accept that records such as "I Surrender Dear", "Please", "Pennies From Heaven", "Moonlight Becomes You", "Temptation" and many others did not "sell a million." However, it seems the true figures will never be known now, so we must be satisfied with what the book says.

+ That the record companies did not keep accurate records in the 30's provides an interesting contrast to today's activities, when companies, agents, and others, on their own admission, "engineer" million-sales as a publicity gimmick. There are other contrasts, too. It is not unusual today for an artiste to allegedly achieve a million-sale with his/her first record - and then to be barely heard of again. Is there another artist in the world who has achieved a million-seller 30 years after he made his first record - and almost 20 years after his first million seller? Will there ever be again? Bing did, of course, with "True Love".

(Cont. over

OH! DEM GOLDEN RECORDS (Cont.)

+ Another contrast is that, while song plugging did go on to an extent right from the start if only by the sheet music publishers, it was nothing like on today's scale. It was recently revealed that Radio Caroline, the last of the pop pirates to surrender, was kept going in its last few weeks by pop groups who paid £150 per week to have their latest record played at least once a day throughout the week!

UNACCOMPANIED:

+ Even so. the 22 with which Bing is credited make an interesting study. Two of these records were made with no instrumental accompaniment: Sunday, Monday or Always, with the Ken Derby Singers towards the end of the calamitious musicians' strike in the early 40's, and the Whiffenpoof Song with Fred Waring's Glee Club. Another million-seller was achieved with piano-only accompaniment (except for rhythm) "I Can't Begin to Tell You", with Carmen Cavallaro. Your Brunswick 78 says, in error, that the accompaniment was by Camarata - a curious error.

MOST FREQUENT ACCOMPANISTS:

+ The law of averages works out, perhaps, in that Bing's most frequent accompanist, John Scott Trotter, heads the list of association with million-sellers, a total of five. These include of course the real mammoth, multi-million selling Christmas records, Adeste Fidelis, Silent Night and the all-time record of all-time, White Christmas. The choir of Max Terr must be mentioned too in connection with these incredible records, and that of Ken Derby again.

ANDY WILLIAMS:

+ I wonder if it is generally known that the currently popular American singer, Andy Williams, participated in a Crosby million-seller? This was "Swinging on a Star" in 1944, when Andy was a lad in the Williams Brothers singing act.

+ Victor Young was second to John Scott as most-present with the baton, and he was concerned in two of the "golden" records; both, incidentally, with an Irish flavour: Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ra (An Irish Lullaby) and Galway Bay. There are many, many other, Young-Bing records that may have, and probably did, sell a million. "Ballad for Americans" could easily have sold a million in America alone.

ANOTHER VICTOR:

+ With Victor Young, there was another Victor who played quite a large part in Bing's golden-record saga. This of course, is Vic Schoen with whom we automatically associate also the incredible Andrews Sisters, who took part in the four "million-sellers" on which Vic Schoen accompanied Bing Crosby. The Andrews made most of their records in any event with Vic Schoen, probably because I believe it is a fact that he was married to one of them. Not all their records with Bing were with Vic. but practically all. There can be no doubt that Bing's tie-up with these girls was one of the most happy and successful associations of all his many "partnership" ventures. Their records contained humour, rhythm, and an almost unbelievable sheer professionalism. Think of "South Rampart St. Parade" - hardly a vocal record at all until Bing and the Andrews Sisters got on to it. Think of "Three Caballeros", "Quicksilver" and so many others, apart from those that reach the magical six-figure mark.

THE REST !

Five to John Scott, two to Victor Young, four to Vic Schoen and the Andrews - the rest claim one apiece. "San Antonio Rose" was particularly welcome for it saw the tie-up with Brother Bob. I can't help feeling that another of Bob's contributions, "Walking The Floor Over You" should have hit the jackpot.

+ Lani MacIntire is, of course, credited with the alleged "first", Sweet Leilani, a truly beautiful record. Then there are the two with son Gary and Matty Matlock's All Stars: Sam's Song and Play A Simple Melody. By the way, doesn't it seem odd that there was a Matty Matlock and a Matty Malneck?

+ Then there is the happy pairing of Bing with the unforgettable Al Jolson when Al was riding high again in 1947 on account of those highly delightful films "The Jolson Story" and "Jolson Sings Again". Finally, as already stated, Fred Waring weighed in with the Whiffenpoof Song. There's a slightly humourous anecdote I can tell about this latter. I have two daughters; when the first was a little girl, whenever she heard the song "Teddy Bear's Picnic" the line: " 'cos they're tired little teddy-bears" she used to cry and reach for her mother's hand. Sure enough, my second daughter a few years later did the same with "we're poor little lambs who've lost our way"!

+ The full golden honours list is on the next page.

BING CROSBY'S MILLION-SELLING RECORDS

YEAR	TITLE.	ORCHESTRA. &c.	CHORUS, DUETTISTS, &C.
1937	Sweet Leilani.	Lani McIntyre & His Hawaiians.	Outfit was vocal group with Hawaiian guitars.
1941	San Antonio Rose.	Bob Crosby & his Orchestra.	-
1942	(Silent Night (Adeste Fidelis	John Scott Trotter	Max Terr Choir.
"	WhiteChristmas.	John Scott Trotter.	Ken Darby Singers.
1943	I'll Be Home For Christmas	John Scott Trotter.	-
"	Sunday, Monday, or Always.		Ken Darby Singers.
"	Pistol Packin' Mama	Vic Schoen.	Andrews Sisters.
"	Jingle Bells.	" "	" "
1944	Swinging on a Star.	John Scott Trotter.	Williams Brothers Quartet
"	Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ra	Victor Young	
"	Don't Fence Me In.	Vic Schoen.	Andrews Sisters.
1945	I Can't Begin To Tell You.	Carmen Cavallaro (piano & rhythm)	
1946	McNamara's Band.	Bob Haggart.	The Jesters.
"	South America Take It Away.	Vic Schoen.	Andrews Sisters.
	(Alexander's Ragtime Band.	Morris Stoloff	Al Jolson.
	(Spaniard That Blighted My life	"	" "
1947	Whiffenpoof Song. The Merry Christmas Album.	John Scott Trotter.	Fred Waring's Glee Club Max. Terr's & Ken Darby.
1948	Now Is The Hour.	Instrumental Accompaniment.	Ken Darby Choir.
"	Galway Bay.	Victor Young.	
1949	Dear Hearts & Gentle People	Perry Botkin.	String Orchestra.
1950	(Sam's Song. (Play A Simple Melody	Matty Malneck	All-Stars.
1956	True Love.	Johnny Green and the MGM Studio Orchestra	Grace Kelly.

(Cont. over.....

BING'S MILLION SELLER (Cont.)

+ Plainly, from this list the 40's was overwhelmingly Bing Crosby's "biggest" decade, with no less than nineteen of the twenty-two credited to him - and it is alleged that "Sweet Leilani", a 1937 recording, did not reach the six figures until 1941. And the 40's is a "favourite" time for those who believe that the voice declined seriously.
+ Note also, that Spaniard and Alexander's are listed as one million-seller, likewise Adeste Fidelis/Silent Night, and Sam's Song/Play a Simple Melody. Other artists in the Daily Mail Book get at least two, one per side. And in some cases, they got a golden disc for each separate million sold. By this reckoning, and a conservative one at that, - and not to gild the lily unnecesarily - Bing's true count of gold records would seem to lie between 80 and 100. "Jingle Bells", for example, is reckoned to have sold six millions.

+ Yet, as I've indicated earlier, I believe the 40's stand out mainly because they were not counting properly in the 30's. But one must concede that the 1940's performance is truly astonishing when shortage of materials and labour owing to War demands is taken into consideration. On the other hand, it was a time for sentiment - and records were a useful outlet. Songs heard on the radio in those days forged a link between people parted from families, etc., and no doubt the desire to have these songs on record stimulated the record industry to an extent.

HAVE WE SEEN THE LAST ?

+ Well, there are some thoughts on Bing records which have sold a million or more. The natural question is: was "True Love" in 1956 the last Bing is destined to achieve? The fervent hope of all of us is an emphatic NO. But is this wish being father to the thought? It is unusual these days to see an artist with a real voice heading the hit-parade. The best that the better performers can expect, it seems, is steady album sales. It is plain too that a record today that hits the top with big sales does not ensure a new vogue for that artist, or continuing sales of his/her records. The modern vogue is for change and change: what if today's hit is forgotten in a month? Let's have another one!

+ But it is so easy for things to change. There was a description of Bing in these pages a year or so ago which has stuck in my mind because it so succinctly summed up the situation. It was a letter to (I think) Leslie Gaylor wherein Bing was referred to as "a sleeping giant". Any day he could come up with a record that would again sweep the world. Such an event could well stimulate tremendous interest in the Crosby saga.

+ Or again, a film telling the Crosby story on the lines of Al Jolson, might produce a startling change. But a gloomy thought intrudes here: how much longer are cinemas going to exist? The weekly rate of conversion to Bingo (rather ironic, at that) continues apace.

+ But I'm not ending this essay on Bing's glorious, golden, records on a gloomy note! No sir. I've around a thousand records, continually growing: the Paul Whiteman with Bing is coming - and just around the corner is THOROUGHLY MODERN BING! Happy days.

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The more knowledgeable and observant Crosby connoisseurs will spot an omission in the list of accompanists I've given for Bing on pages 35 and 36 - so I'd better get the record straight! In many of Bing's early 30's recordings, the musical director was unnamed, the record label merely stating "With Orchestral Accompaniment".

++

+ We know irony, or satire, is not everybody's cup of tea, but I'm sure there was many a chuckle over FRED REYNOLDS'S "Compliments of the Season" in the January issue! This was in gentler vein, was it not? I know my wife wanted to know what was so funny in BING when I chuckled aloud at Fred's catalogue of things he had NOT perpetrated. However, that missing line in "Well - Did You Evah" is intriguing. One can think of all kinds of possible reasons other than the one given. Sinatra was a Capitol artist for years - perhaps they felt it was a "reflection" on their man! Perhaps they thought that the "newer" record buying public wouldn't appreciate the humour of it. Perhaps they would rather have had Sinatra make the remark! Anyone got any humourous suggestions? Let us have 'em.
(In the original version, Bing says to the thin one: "You must be one of the newer fellas" when Sinatra says "Don't dig that sort of crooning" after Bing had slipped in a boo-booo!)

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ABOUT BING'S RECORDS

Discrosby

OLD AND NEW

WHEREON LIES ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS THAT ARE SO MAGNIFICENTLY BING.

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+ As I start this little feature that truly beautiful record "The Waltz You Saved For Me" is playing, and I know what follows - "When You're a Long, Long, Way From Home". So its no use. I'll have to wait until its finished and turn off, for I just can't write or think when Bing is singing. Which means that I have to give listening my full attention in order not to miss, no matter how many times I've heard it before, the incredible interpretation that Mr. Crosby applies to every song....

\+ + +

+ Collecting L.P.'s as they come out inevitably means a certain amount of duplication of titles. One accepts this, and indeed, it is not entirely a bad thing to have several spares, for Accidents Will Happen. Yet Brunswick got us in a rare old knot with the Irish albums - the 10" and 12" "When Irish Eyes are Smiling", and the 12" "Shillelaghs and Shamrocks". And now the M.F.P. issues make acquisition of these bargains inevitable, if only because they appear to offer striking new sleeves, AND, as dear old Leslie has pointed out, a sleeve on "Bing & Satchmo" which actually mentions 250 million record sales. Getting back to this album gives me the opportunity to correct my earlier remark that two titles had been omitted from the M.F.P. It is only one, of course, and that being "Bye, Bye, Blues" - as a note from Fred Reynolds points out.

\+ + +

+ Listening to Bing and Louis again it occurs to me that now ol' Satchmo has done the trick yet again with his very tuneful record of "What a Wonderful World", this might be a propitious moment to issue, even as a single, "Rocky Mountain Moon". This is a beautiful tuneful number from all angles - Bing, Louis, chorus, and orchestra. Just another of those record mysteries - why this wasn't a thumping success years ago.

\+ + +

+ Fred also told me that the ill-balance between Bing and the accompaniment on the new single was purely for juke-box purposes, and that the L.P. version will have this balance adjusted in Bing's favour - which all points to Bing being, willy-nilly, pushed into the modern "gimmickry" of record production.

\+ + +

+ I would be very happy to think that anyone who read my notes in the last issue lost no time in buying "How The West Was Won". I know two who have - although they didn't read my column for they are not members of the I.C.C. - and I don't permit "free" looks, even to my friends! They were casual visitors to the house who heard the tracks. Not Crosby collectors as such - the kind to say "'ol Bing, nobody like him" and buy a record every now and again. One of them, incidentally, set himself up as a Bing-expert, declaring that "H.T.W.W.W." was definitely the young Bing. Took a good-half-hour, with the aid of The Road to Bing Crosby to at least put doubts in his mind that this was a comparatively new recording. Which surely goes to underline my unbridled enthusiasm for it in the January issue.

\+ + +

DISCROSBY (Cont.)

+ My enthusiasm, far from being dimmed, is considerably enhanced. A recording of this nature will offer new facets for years to come. For instance, I've always believed that the word "bloke" was a peculiarly English expression - even perhaps confined to London - meaning a chap, fellow, man, &c. Yet "H.T.W.W.W." which has a true, American, traditional background has a song, "What Was Your Name in the States" which contains the line: "Did you rob a rich bloke?" The answer, I suppose, is that quite a few Englishmen took part in winning the West.

\+ + +

+ Non-Bing records that have caught my eye lately,in addition to Satchmo's new single, are one by Lani McIntire of great Crosby-association, a 12 inch album of Lani's type of Hawaiian music on the new Hallmark 12/6d series. Another is by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, again a 12-inch album, which contains the great anthem "Come, Come, Ye Saints" which is also contained in "H.T.W.W.W." I can't help feeling the very fine work would be better named "All Is Well". I believe this, too, was an R.C.A. record and should be well worth buying, especially those partial to good choirs.

\+ + +

+ New facets? What of "Travellin' Two-Beat", anachronistic or not! Anachronistic my eye - whenever was distinguished talent anachronistic? But this album, now to be reissued by World Record Club, is full of good things lyric-wise. There is no doubt that Jay Livingston and Ray Evans produced some minor masterpieces in this direction. Don't you just love the mock-concern for the Poor People of Paris? All the poor things do is to make love and music, eat good food and drink wine! "Quel catastrophe," says Bing - and "Why don't they drink milk?". And isn't Rosie delicious when she says sadly: "Ah, you are Americanne? Then you know Burt Lancaster, yes? The French are not so 'appy as the Americannes, they only drink good wine &c.." Wonderful irony. Perhaps its "satire"!

\+ + +

+ What of the jaunty-sadness of "Ciao, Ciao, Bambina", which incidentally is a very fine melody - "See you here next year", sings Bing - in Roma. What of the "claws" of Rosie in "Adios Senorita" - 2"You deserve each other" and "Conchita's lost what she had!" Throughout the lyrics and vocal-arrangements are brilliant. The only slight jarring note is the virtually impossible big band Dixieland. The notes on the original sleeve are not only informative but very credible.

\+ + +

+ I remember a letter being published here from a newcomer wherein he said, in effect,his breath was taken away by the sheer welter of Crosby-know-how exhibited in these pages. I can understand what the gentleman meant! In fact, one often reads things that are faintly disturbing. For example, when I first heard the Singalong albums I pictured in my mind Bing, with the accompaniment, facing a happy crowd of singers, all of them having a grand time. Then I discovered that Bing "dubbed" his part over the pre-recorded chorus and accompaniment. It makes no difference to the sound, of course, but the "happy Picture" does tend to disappear, does it not? And there is one thing that really bothers me. I hope someone can tell me the answer.

\+ + +

+ If Bing did, in fact, "dub" over his contribution, how on earth is it done when,in, for example, "Sweet Adeline". Here Bing starts off quite unaccompanied! Now, how could he time that so that the pre-recorded chorus came in just right? Not only that, throughout this song - the true public house National Anthem, by the way - the chorus "follows" Bing, as it were. I am baffled as to how it was achieved with Bing and the others separated both in time and location.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (part four)

CHARLES LEDWICH writes from Dundee, Scotland
I have just received the tie designed for the club by Johnny Jones and it is very elegant indeed. Johnny tells me I am the first member to receive one, which pleases me greatly, But I am sure all members will be wearing one eventually. Several friends have admired the tie and have asked what the ICC motif represents, so I have to explain and of course this is all good publicity for the club.

SAM BEATTIE writes from Bolton, Lancs, England.
I have been on the trail for many weeks now for a copy of Kathryn's book, BING AND OTHER THINGS and the latest information I have is that is has to be ordered from the American publishers. This is advised by W & G Foyle Ltd, 119-125 Charing Cross Rd, London WC2 - the price of the book is given as 5 Dollars 95 cents, roughly 48/- The Letters from Sam Sternberg interest me. he is no doubt 101% Bing Crosby, that's how it should be, if we must keep the "Groaner" at the top, where he has been so rightfully for years. I think we owe him that for the pleasure he has given to millions for so many years. The article THE CROSBY LIBRARY was really something, my thanks to Bob Roberts for that. Tom Northropes comments were so very true, he put the case really in focus.

FRED ROMARY writes from New York, USA
About the Crosby single STEP TO THE REAR it gets some plays on the radio but sales in the East are not great.I experimented one evening prior to Christmas and slipped into ONDINE Discotheque in Manhattan and gave the lass grinding out the Beat stuff a demo copy of WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE WORLD and she slipped it on. In fact three times that evening. Of course the young ones did'nt notice it was Bing but sure as hell they danced to it. This proves a point that the kids to day don't know or care who is singing so long as they can wriggle their troubles out on the dance floor. One record shop in a small neighborhood sold 30 copies at the outset. A true picture of sales depends on the Crosby Office but for my money the single will not move until it is issued on LP form. About the overplaying of the orchestra, this is the process 54's have come too. SINATRA, LOPEZ and other strong voices suffer under heavy sound backings. This is for juke box and loud speaker play. The true handling comes out in LP form. Example. I have about 10 pressings of Sinatrand Nancy doing SOMETHIN' STUPID. The first you could not hear her at all - No kidding.....By the time you had the 'K' pressing take in hand they both were even over the orchestra, and even greater in the LP - so I suggest we wait for an LP issue before we give final opinions on these Reprise tracks.

MICHAEL CRAMPTON writes from Leeds England.
It is with great pleasure that I enclose my 10th renewal fee and I want to thank the club for the encouragement and help down the years and for the many friendships made - I hope that it will continue always.

RON DANIELS writes from Elizabeth West, South Australia
In the October issue of "BING" you ask for members to send in lists of Crosby records played on the air in different parts if the world. I think this is quite a good idea and to start with it might be as well to list the scene as it applies here in South Australia - In S.A. we have five main broadcasting stations situated in Adelaide not including regionals which usually take their programmes from the main stations - these are as follows;

1310	K/c-s	Call	Sign	5AD	- TEEN-AGE POP MUSIC, HEADLINE NEWS ITEMS
1200	"	"	"	5KA	- SPORT, WEATHER, COMMERCIAL
970	"	"	"	5DN	- MIDDLE OF THE ROAD MUSIC, NEWS SHEET, SPORT, CONVERSATION PROGRAMMES, COMMERCIAL
895	"	"	"	5AN	- LIGHT & SEMI CLASSICAL MUSIC, SPORT, NATIONAL NEWS, AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION.
725	"	"	"	5CL	- HEAVY CLASSICAL MUSIC, NATIONAL NEWS, DOCUMENTARY & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES, ABC

As you can see from the above we have the long-haired lowbrows at one end of the dial and the long hair-hi brows at the other end, and the average, over 25, Mums and dads in the middle - Ron continues over.

continueing LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (part four)

Ron Daniel's continues.."Regarding Crosby airings, 5AN broadcasts a breakfast show which occasionaly features Bing, and a late night show most week nights hosted by Ralph Binns, who seems to have a soft spot for Bing as he usually plays one of his numbers - always introducing Bing as "MY OLD AND VENERABLE"
On Sunday afternoon they have a programme of mixed record entertainment from Sydney entitled STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE, There are no prizes for guessing who sings the theme song. Incidentally a few weeks ago they misplaced their copy of the record and had to broadcast an SOS for someone to loan them one. Within SIXTY SECONDS the announcer stated that someone had rung the Sidney station and offered to help them. The offer came from a Mr Peters who is a well known Crosby collector in NSW.
Our only other source of Bing on radio is 5DN, or as they announce it GROWN UP RADIO (no pun intended,. 5DN broadcasts 24 hours a day as do most of the commercial stations in Australia, and they usually include a couple of Crosby items each day, maybe others during the night, but I have never stayed up all night to find out. They were about the only station to give the RCA EP a good airing, their favourite being IT'S A GOOD DAY, followed by THE ASHMOLEAN MARCHING SONG, the announcers always seemed to get tangled up over that ine though. In closing I want to say how much I have enjoyed reading the Golden Years magazine, certainly takes me back to those wonderful pre war days, or should I say nights when we teenagers used to be allowed to sat up late to listen to the late night dance music from the BBC, I distinctly remember if one sipped slowly enough one could make a cup of cocoa last half an hour.

END

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* *
* presenting *
* THE PETER WILSON COLUMN *
****

Time for BING news once again and to start my report this time the first real mention of Bing came on radio Jan 30th when I heard the DJ announce "BING CROSBY'S VERY LATEST RECORDING - A STEP TO THE REAR, quite a catchy number, but Bing's voice is drowned out by the orchestra.
One display is the new BING LOUIS album, and my town of Middlesbrough seems to be giving this excellent album good coverage in the local stores.
Even though none of my family are Irish, we've always loved Irish songs, especially when Bing sings them, so on St Patrick's day I got out Bing's album SHILLEGHIES AND SHAMROCKS and we had an Irish sing song. No matter what the occasion there always seems to be a Bing song to fit, as at Easter when we had the wonderful HOLIDAY INN with EASTER PARADE on BBC TV on Easter Sunday - Well it's time now for my Diary so here is a listing of the Bing records I have managed to hear on radio these past months.

JANUARY 4th-PAPER DOLL 10th-MULE TRAIN 12th-MCNAMARA'S BAND 18th-GONE FISHIN' 27th-TRUE LOVE 30th-STEP TO THE REAR

FEBUARY 2nd-AROUND THE WORLD 16th-MOONLIGHT BAY 21st-SHINE

MARCH 3rd-MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU 7th-WAY DOWN YONDER IN NEW ORLEANS 14th-GONE FISHIN' 17th-GALWAY BAY-ON A SLOW BOAT TO CHINA 20th-WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILIN' 25th-WELL DID YOU EVAH

APRIL 16th-BUSY DOIN' NOTHIN' 17th-TRUE LOVE

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"....after the war my interest in Bing waned somewhat and it was through listening to Ken Sykora on BBC radio that I first heard of the BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY....." JOHN DOBSON tells the whole story in the JULY ISSUE OF "BING"

the street
CARBEENA PARADE
the town
WEST HEIDELBURG
the state
VICTORIA
the country
AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN ROUND-UP

we're visiting
NUMBER 21
the owner is
KEITH HYDE

Since the last issue of "BING" mag I have obtained my copy of BING CROSBY IN HOLLYWOOD 1930 - 1934, 2 X 12" LP set which is the first issue from Columbia in the new HALL OF FAME series No C2L43 - for full title list see "BING" mag issue number 9 of January 1968. Although I am most gratefull to Columbia for making this issue available, I found the album, 'soundwise' most dissapointing. The transfer from 78's to micro, despite the advance publicity of Columbia's entirely new and revolutionary approach to sound restoration' to my ear, leaves much to be desired. The sound on the album seems to be flat' when compared to my original 78's. I must admit that it is a vast improvment on the Australian Festival issues, but falls a long way short of the sound restoration that RCA have been able to achieve Perhaps it is because these tracks were taken from 78 Pressings and not from original Masters. Why this was so remains a puzzle to me, for surely most of these Masters must still be available, and furthermore why could'nt some of the Alternative takes have been used?. On the credit side I found the choice of material was excellent and I concur with the policy of presenting both sides of an original issue,when transferred to micro even if the flip does not add anything to our collections. The presentation and cover photos and notes deserve full marks and I think without a doubt it is one of the finest if not the finest presentation we have yet had of Bing, and despite my critisism of the sound, I can heartily recon end this set to anyone even remotely interested in Bing and for the enthusiast it is a MUST. But I would hasten to add, that if you do not possess the original 78's do not be satisfied to have these tracks on the album, but continue your search for the originals if you want to have the <u>real</u> Bing sound of the 30's

I also have to hand the Reprise single STEP TO THE REAR/WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE WORLD and I feel sure that with this issue there will be a real controversy among Bing enthusiasts for many years to come. This single is once again typical Reprise with the chorus and Orchestra almost drowning Bing out entirely. What we <u>can</u> hear of Bing he is in splendid voice and undoubtedly the fault is with the alleged sound engineers. To quote from my great friend and fellow member HENRY HOLLOW of Tasmania. "The question is WHAT CAN WE DO WITH REPRISE RECORDS? - I think that any Reprise record is a backward step" - "I have not enough knobs to turn to correct the inbalance and at one stage had it sounding like an elderly gentleman with badly fitting dentures singing with a band of Salvationists!" - But seriously we both agree that fault lies with the recording engineers and NOT with Bing, and apart from the shocking imbalance of the recording I feel that this is a disc you will enjoy or heartily detest. There will be no half way mark. For myself, I <u>love</u> it, especially STEP TO THE REAR but I can just picture the "Old and Bolds" shaking their heads in dissaproval, and muttering "So Bing has decided, if you can't lick join em" - I personally like the disc because of the following reasons, and NOT because I think "The King" can do no wrong, I find STEP TO THE REAR a bright and catchy tune with a solid up-tempo beat. The lyrics are fine and Bing sings them as though he really means them - Virile and full of confidence. Frankly I would like him to do much more of this type of material from Musical Comedy, and I am <u>still</u> hoping that he will record the great 76 TROMBONES, which I feel could have been especially written for him, it's so "tailor made" to suit him - WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE WORLD is a definate 'mod' beat number and is aimed more at the younger set. To me, it proves that if there <u>is</u> such a thing as a high class number in this category then this is it. The lyrics <u>do</u> have some meaning and contain a message which Bing gets across with his surperb phrasing, timing and expression, the chorus and orch are once again far too loud, but it is quite apparent that this is the way the modern generation like their discs. For mysele.....Keith continues over-

keith hyde continues
AUSTRALIAN ROUND-UP

.....I'm pleased that Bing cut this side only to prove that he can do this stuff, just as well, if not better, than 95% of the people who make a hell of a good living out of it, and nothing else but this kind of material. To the long haired monsters who resort to all the gimmicks in the book (and a few that arn't) this should be an object lesson, and Bing does not resort to one 'yeah, Yeah Yeah' OR 'One more time'. Judging from my teenage daughters reactions I would think that given proper plugging this single could make the charts. She has asked for repeated playings and I've caught her sneaking in some extra spins when she thought I was not at home. Not that I would like Bing to make a practice of cutting such tracks (which I'm certain he would not) But I'm pleased he has done this one, for the same reason I'm pleased he did BE-BOP SPOKEN HERE, PECKIN', BING AND BUDDY BREGMAN etc to prove his versitility. Incidentally a letter to Reprise complaining about the way he had been recorded on their label and how much better he was treated on Capitol with BING SINGS THE GREAT COUNTRY HITS, brought forth the answer that they had tried to get Bing back to the hit parade by presenting him as a lead singer with a group a la' style of THE NEW CHRISTIE MINSTRELS and ALL singles had to have groups to be successful these days. Well, that be as it may, it is still not a good enough reason to excuse the poor balance of this disc. I still consider the disc good Bing, perhaps not his very best, but nevertheless still good Bing, and even at his worst he is still head and shoulders above his competitors. I shall be interested in hearing other members opinions about this disc.

On the TV side we have had Bing as the guest on THE DEAN MARTIN SHOW twice recently and on both occasions he sang a medley with Deano, the second show was much better with Bing doing a medley of AL JOLSON hits with Deano. Bing looked very fit and 10 years younger than Deano, especially when he smiled. Deano resorted to all his old gimmicks of being half 'sloshed' while Bing just relaxed and sang and 'killed em' Incidentally I think it's about time the directors of these Bing guest shots used a little imaginationand initiative and instead of sticking to the tired old format of star introduces Bing, star and Bing sing a medley (?) about one line each of Bing's past hits, or sometimes Bing sings a medley of his past hits, usually songs he has sung about 1,000 times. For a switch I would like to hear Bing sing the stars hit and vicepversa. Apart from the recent JACKIE GLEESON SHOW on which Bing appeared as guest, and THE HOLLYWOOD PALACE, none of the other guest shots have done him justice and I'd be interested in what other members think?

In addition to the many great albums now coming out via PICKPICK and COLUMBIA HALL OF FAME with the great WHITEMAN PICTURE LABEL CL2830 there is also the terrific 2 album set on EPIC E2E 202 titles not yet to hand but I understand the cover has a great early photo of Bing and no doubt the presentation will be just as good if not better than the Col Hall of Fame issues. And as if all of this is not enough he has also put further tracks in the can for LONGINES SYNPHONETTE - Yes Bing is back again, in full swing and it looks as if he really did mean those words when he sang STEP TO THE REAR, what a wonderful start for the year 1968, which could prove to be the best Bing year for us in more than a decade. let's hope that the radio stations play the game and give all these Bing discs a good airing - In the meantime keep sending in your requests as this is the one way in which each and every member can do their share towards keeping the Crosby flag flying and his voice before the public. Till next issue then, Cheers, Keith Hyde.

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THE STAR - SHEFFIELD 25 years ago;

From THE STAR, January 1943 BING CROSBY'S HOME BURNS
A Hollywood message says Bing Crosby's home has been destroyed by fire. Damage is estimated at £62,000.

MOONBURN

WORDS BY EDWARD HEYMAN • MUSIC BY HOAGY CARMICHAEL

from
the Paramount Picture
"ANYTHING GOES"
starring
BING CROSBY • ETHEL MERMAN
CHARLIE RUGGLES
YOU'RE THE TOP
ANYTHING GOES • I GET A KICK OUT
OF YOU • THERE'LL ALWAYS BE A LADY
FAIR • MOON BURN • SAILOR BEWARE
MY HEART AND I • SHANGHAI-DEE-HO

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
presents a MINI-BING CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY

JEAN PAUL FRERAULT/Canada, and FRANK MURPHY/England are collaborating on a mini-Bing Crosby discography covering every recording Bing Crosby has been associated with from 1926 - It must be clearly stated, for the benefit of the bigger collectors that this mini discog will have little to interest people interested in matrix numbers, label infor etc - it is to be purely and simply a handy reference work covering every Bing Crosby title together with the recording date of same - designed to help the small Crosby man who might like to know in a hurry when, for example did Bing record MY WOMAN - this mini discog will tell him - 23-Feb-1932. that's all - but sufficient for the purpose of a limited project like this which in no way attempts to achieve the hèights reached by the ROAD TO BING CROSBY series.

Our mini-discography will be available on JULY 5th-1968 - Price 7/6 (One Dollar-US.) An ICC project - all proceeds to the clubs advertising campain fund - Order from Frank Murphy.

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* *
* more news from *
* LESLIE GAYLOR *
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Whilst the going's good, newer members may like to purchase any of the following ACE OF HEARTS albums;-

BING AND THE DIXIELAND BANDS AH31
BING THE EARLY 30's Vol1 AH40
BING THE EARLY 30's Vol2 AH88
AMONG MY SOUVENIRS AH90
BELOVED HYMNS AH145
BING SINGS FOR CHILDREN AH139
BING IN PARIS AH122

OLD MASTERS VOL1 AH1
OLD MASTERS VOL2 AH17
OLD MASTERS VOL3 AH24
BALLAD FOR AMERICAN'S AH130

ICHABOD AH136

For some real nostalgic Bing you could'nt go far wrong with RCA 27075 THE YOUNG BING CROSBY which features Bing with the orchestra of PAUL WHITEMAN and GUS ARNHEIM

On page 19 of my column in this issue I stated that I would apply for a re-check of the PICKWICK recording data that was so thoughtfully rushed over to me by my long time contact in America. I can now say very categorically that the original information supplied to me is 100% correct as I thought, as really my informant is always precise. In my possession is a photostat copy of an original notification from PICKWICK INTERNATIONAL chating that "WE RECORDED 5 SONGS ON FEBUARY 9th AND 8 SONGS ON FEBUARY 12th" - the details are also given that "MR CROSBY DID NOT DO A LIVE SESSION FOR US, BUT RATHER 'OVER DUBBED' TO EXISTING BASIC TRACKS AND THEREFORE NO RECORDING WORKS SHEETS WERE MADE OUT" The official data then is as follows

THE FOLLOWING SONGS WERE RECORDED IN NEW YORK ON FEB 9th 1968
Thoroughly Modern Millie-Talk To The Animals-Ding Dong The Witch Is Dead-High Hopes-My Friend The Doctor

THE FOLLOWING SONGS WERE RECORDED IN NEW YORK ON FEB 12th 1968
(I Call You) Sunshine-Where The Rainbow Ends-What's More American-Up Up And Away, Puff The Magic Dragon-Chim Chim Cheree-Love Is Blue- That's All I Want From You.

This is the correct position and my comments at the start of my article should be ignored. A further correction is that the album I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS was recorded at RADIO RECORDERS-HOLLYWOOD and the unissued album I mentioned was recorded on two dates - June 21 and June 26 1962 at UNITED RECORDERS, HOLLYWOOD.

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN BING GUESTS ON "THE JACKIE GLEASON TV SHOW" ? read the whole story in the July issue of this magazine courtesy of our Canadian Correspondent Jean Paul Frerault, a fantastic story of Superstars, BING CROSBY, LIBERACE, "WAITING FOR JACKIE"

RAYMOND MC CORMACK writes from Belfast 14, N Ireland
Just a few lines hopin that you may publish the few comments that I feel I must make after purchasing the CLUB TIE from Johnny Jones - The tie has many excellent qualities which include the colour. a reserved blue suitable for summer wear or even an evening out. The texture is very good and feels like a good lasting material. An attractive without being too prominent insignia is displayed on the front. Lastly the price, 15/- - surely a must for any well dressed Bing fan.

MICHAEL SOPER writes from Cardiff, S Wales.
Recently received the set of photos A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH, very nice too, also have Bing's new single STEP TO THE REAR which I really like, tho' I must admit the backing is a little liud at times, I recently heard it being raved about on RADIO 1, one lunch hour.

STEVE MASON writes from New York, USA
What's more important is to thank you for your interest in me and my recordings. Your reporter Mr Romary has visited with us several times and his manner is quite impressive. He rocked me with that grand cover of myself. When this issue reaches the stands I'd appreciate notice so that I might obtain extra copies for promotion here in the States.

BILL BELL writes from Newcastle on Tyne, England
The most amazing thing about the 'letters' column of the magazine is to be able to read letters from fans aged from 14 to 69 years of age. When the letter mentioned Bing's recording of THINE ALONE, it brought back memories of Ferndale Avenue, and the weekly sessions we used to have there, THINE ALONE always used to top the list of favourites played. I rate this as one of my top favourites along with WALK ME BY THE RIVER and ISLE OF INNESFREE

FRANK HATWELL writes from Birmingham, England
The last cover is suberb. I have heard one or two critisisms of it but I'm sure that people who do criticise are not'seeing' it properly. It is really a good likeness but I know from my own family that some people cannot get it at first but do after some study.

FRANK STEINER writes from Califonnia USA
Regarding your request, my sending a greeetings tape for the May Convention of the ICC, I feel quite flattered, and I shall certainly respond to the bestof my ability and I am planning already to do something a little different, or rather I should say something you hav'nt heard before.

TERRY "BING" SHANNON writes from Manchester, England
Over Christmas and New Year we had engagments at six clubs in six consecutive nights and I must have rendered quite a number of Bing's songs. After Nancy and I have sung TRUE LOVE together she tells the audience that I will now sing a solo of one of Bing's oldies. I usually do DOWN BY THE RIVER from MISSISSIPPI, then this almost always gets a call for an encore - in some spots they clamour for more Bing songs, some even come across to our table with requests like BROTHER CAN YOU SPARE A DIME, STARDUST and JUST ONE MORE CHANCE etc - It's nice to be able to sing a bit like Bing, to get up on the stage in a packed club, and sing Bing's old songs...Heaven knows I've got a lot to thank BING CROSBY for.

TONY BULMER writes from Yorkshire, England
It was unexpected to know that I was one of the youngest members to join the club. When I joined I was 13 years 9 months, I was 14 on the 11th April this year. About the club ties, you can certainly count me in for buying one.

WALTER LAMBERT writes from Middlesex, England
Please accept the ebclosed photo of THE CROSBY HEAD with my compliments, anytime you're in town try the liquid refreshment at this pub, it's pure nectar plus a cosy atmosphere. Could'nt be otherwise with a name like that, could it? - It's one minute from Old Street underground station.

----------END----------

MEMBERS NEWS-ITEMS AND COMMENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME FOR PUBLICATION IN THESE COLUMNS

LESLIE GAYLOR reviews THE PICKWICK SINGLE

Before this issue closes I'd like to make a short comment about the new single - It was a great surprise receiving this disc as it was airmailed to me in a large padded envelope with even a treasured label on it bearing the words FROM BING CROSBY, HOLLYWOOD, and was I pleased - The disc is a glossy black and white label promotion copy - not for sale on the label- information as follows

WHERE THE RAINBOW ENDS MN W4KM 0755 Recorded 12-Feb-68
WHAT'S MORE AMERICAN MN W4KN 0754 " " "
with Bugs Bower Orchestra - U.S. label No 8903 - Producer Joe Abend.

I like the record on both sides, Bing is in fine form. The accompaniment is modern and beaty style and how youthful Bing sounds on WHAT'S MORE AMERICAN - he really swings along on this side reminsicent of CHRISTMAS DINNER COUNTRY STYLE - A toe-tapper indeed and the only snag is the recording balance is not so good. In places it's hard to catch what Bing is singing about amid the accompaniment. Recording level for his voice here is about the same as on the last Reprise single. On WHERE THE RAINBOW ENDS here we have a lot better balance of recording and it's more of the familiar way that we like our Bing presented. A nice little song, slower tempo and sung softly by Bing. A shade better balance of recording even here between Bing and Bugs Bower orchestra would have improved this side. There is rather a strange and weird opening that rather spoils this particular recording. Before Bing comes in the lead instrumentalist sounds extremely amatuerish giving the impression of the recording varying in speed, unless there is a fault in the recprding here.
A Hi Fi specialist in town here explained to me what even' wrong there.
A quick sum up then, a nice record to have - two tuneful songs, nicely sung, but recording quality not as good as one would wish.

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

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FRED ROMARY....."I happened upon a stereo copy of the soundtrack PEPE, in which Bing does PENNIES FROM HEAVEN, LET'S FALL IN LOVE and SOUTH OF THE BORDER. Upon reaching home I thought the LP looked strange for some reason so I pulled out the copy in my file that I purchased at the time the film was released. To start with the new copy had ;

(1) A Deeper sound, more quality, not a dubbed sound and although I don't know if a different master was used the entire album sounded different.
(2) The back cover has eliminated the red color plate and has been produced in black and white
(3) Instead of the red and gold label on the original the new one has blue with black letters and black logo
(4) With the exception the titles and numbers, ALL credits have been eliminated.
(5) Matrix numbers (original)SCP 507 A, SCP 507B,
" " (new copy)SCP 507 A1 MONARCH 3116, SCP 507 B1
Monarch 3116 X

**********OOOOOO**********OOOOOO**********

JEAN PAUL FREREAULT....."I have received from Kathryn Crosby one copy of her book "BING AND OTHER THINGS" in which Kathryn has wrote "TO JEAN PAUL WITH MY VERY BEST WISHES, signed also By Bing - this is a gift I shall always treasure."

**********OOOOOO**********OOOOOO**********

Special tape section — THE I.C.C. CONVENTION - NORTH SHIELDS Sunday May 26-1968

Direct from DON DENNEY-Spokane Washington - On tape, Bing visits his old home in Spokane, now owned by the Higgins family "The house has been painte once or twice since I was here" - Bing at Gonzaga University "This is more people than saw my last three movies" - Bing talks at great lenth of his early days with Whiteman etc. BING AND BOB HOPE at New York special tape. BING OPENS THE 1968 GOLF TOURNEY, special tape, direct from FRANK STEINER, California - DON'T MISS THIS UNIQUE EVENT which also includes a special tape recording of Bing's actual arrival at Spokane airport and Harry jnr's guitar solo of MALAGUENA "Come on son, let's see if we can get you a booking somewhere".....ALL THIS AND LOTS MORE

AROUND THE WORLD WITH "BING"

GLOBE-TROTTING WITH THE I.C.C.
to ISRAEL-ENGLAND and AMERICA

BING AND LOUIS (Music for Pleasure 13/11. A delightful record made by Crosby and Armstrong in the autumn of their careers. Some of the old vitality is missing, but the old rhythm is there, and the humour too. A good bargain - JC-THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE March 29th 1968

....BING.;.....WER'E GETTING AROUND.....- shortly to be placed on our subscription list is an organisation with the very impressive heading LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WASHINGTON, DC.

We already have one order for our forthcoming Mini-Discography - this is for BELFAST CITY LIBRARY - bet that'll surprise Jack Osborne?.....

SAMUEL STERNBURG writes from ISRAEL - Press cutting from FILMS IN REVIEW - Feb 1968

MOTION PICTURE HERALD has polled Theatre owners for many years to learn which stars bring the most people to the box office and each year publishes photographs of 25 actors and actresses who got the most votes. I have tabulated the 25 winners for the years 1932 through to 1965 and list below the number of times they were voted top box-office;

25 times GARY COOPER. 23, BING CROSBY. 22, CLARK GABLE, GARY GRANT, 20, JAMES STEWART. 18,JOHN WAYNE. 16, DORIS DAY, GREGORY PECK. 14, SPENCER TRACY, BOB HOPE, BURT LANCASTER. 13, ABBOTT AND COSTELLO. 12, BETTY GRABLE, WALLACE BEERY, HUMPHREY BOGART, ALAN LADD, ROCK HUDSON. 11, CLAUDETTE COLBERT. 10, FRANK SINATRA.

ENGLAND-
Bing was featured in a special broadcast on BBC RADIO 2 - 9.35 am to 10.15am Tuesday April 2nd 1968 - 40 YEARS OF BING CROSBY - the programme was compiled by TONY THOMAS and included many of Bing's original records of the very early days, MISSISSIPPI MUD, I'VE GOT THE GIRL, SIDE BY SIDE, as well as items like TRUE LOVE of more recent vintage. Bing also talked personally to Tony Thomas from Los Angeles. did any member of the ICC tape this programme.

U.S.

U.S.A. FRED ROMARY.....:
That discotheque in New York is still playing Bing's record WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE WORLD.....BING CROSBY said of Bob Hopes hometown...."The highlight of their cultural season was the arrival of a singing telegram.....BING CROSBY.."When I'm on television my family watches another channel...they say they can see me at home."....BING CROSBY.."When asked how I got to Hollywood and in the movies, I tell them the truth, by train."

ENGLAND - THE BLACK AND WHITE MINSTELL'S TONY MERCER..... He is often compared with BING CROSBY because his style is so easy and relaxed. Said TONY "I'm a great admirer of Bing, but I've never tried to copy him" - Tony Mercer joined the Minstrells in 1952.

ENGLAND - Married recently KATHLEEN MOORHOUSE to KEITH PARKINSON - the best of everything from all fellow members to Mr and Mrs P' down there in Hyde, Cheshire.

ENGLAND - THE ELUSIVE TRAIL OF THE EARLIEST EVER BING CROSBY LETTER

Can Alf Farrow of Hull Yorkshire, claim the title - his is the earliest one to come to light yet - but we are getting a little further back each issue - Here is a copy of Alf's letter.

BING CROSBY NEW YORK AUGUST 1, 1933

Dear Mr Farrow,

Bing has received your letter of recent date and he has requested me to write thanking you for your interest.

Bing only hopes his future efforts will warrent your attention and approval.

Cordially yours
MARIE B KELLY Sec'ty to Bing Crosby

Seeing as Alf went on to become President of THE ORIGINAL BING CROSBY FAN CLUB and here in 1968 is one of the newest ICC members, Miss Kelly's comments were approved.

In sharp contrast to the ultra-modern atmosphere of "Here Is My Heart," Bing Crosby's recent screen triumph, his next picture, appropriately titled "MISSISSIPPI", will have as a background for its gay action and tender romance the colorful days of the show boats on the Father of Waters. . . . In "MISSISSIPPI", from the play by Booth Tarkington, you will meet the inimitable W. C. Fields as the master showman of the showboat, a lovely Southern belle played by Joan Bennett; you'll be introduced to the screen's newest charmer, Queenie Smith; and such excellent actors as John Miljan, Gail Patrick, Claude Gillingwater and Fred Kohler. . . . You'll be thrilled by the duelling; you'll laugh your head off at W. C. Fields and the Cabin Kids; but most of all your heart will be stirred by Bing Crosby's singing of the original melodies written for him by the team of RICHARD RODGERS and LORENZ HART, whose "Blue Moon" is the sensational hit of today and who will be remembered for such unforgettable song successes as "With a Song in My Heart", "My Heart Stood Still", "Blue Room", "Isn't It Romantic" and "Lover".

The Rodgers and Hart songs glorified by CROSBY in "MISSISSIPPI" are:—"Soon", "It's Easy to Remember" and "Down by the River".

FRANK by FRANK

YOUR EDITOR'S CONTRIBUTION

TO THE CURRENT CROSBY SCENE !

FROM THE EDITORIAL CHAIR

Today is Wednesday May 1st, the time is 6.05 in the evening, I'm sitting in my office here at the Empire Cinema, Jarrow, and I can hear CLIFF RICHARD singing SUMMER HOLIDAY in the background, a recording that has [illegible] But the reason for this illuminated picture of May 1st is to tell you that just under an hour ago, I crawled into the cinema after having spent an exhausting day in Newcastle with my pal John Maughan - I say exhausting because it was just that, for after many years of talking about doing it, and with both our minds diet bound, we sampled a turkish bath at the Civic Centre there - it clipped 3pounds off me and two off John, but what an experience - highly recommended for overweight Bing fans.

For the first time under the I.C.C. banner, the club has a representative in the USA, and who better to fill this post that FRED ROMARY good to have you aboard Fred. and in England we have a new Publicity Officer for the North - BRIAN PATTINSON, Brian never fails to impress me on his frequent visits to my home - a go-ahead boy without a doubt - Brian will tie up very nicely with the wonderful efforts made by our Southern Correspondent, the indefatigable BOB ROBERTS - You know the name Bob Roberts to me spells sincere Crosbyana and if MY CUP were to RUNNETH OVER, from it would also spill the names of luminaries of the Crosby world like LESLIE GAYLOR, REG BRISTO, JACK MANNERS and many others, far too numerous to mention in this limited column.

DON WOOLLAND called to see me at home yesterday and we spent an enjoyable 90 minutes discussing Don's plans to publicise the forthcoming Convention - when Don left I felt assured that no-one presswise or tv or radio-wise locally would be unaware of this great ICC event - because Don is especially interested in film news I played for his an advance part of FRANK STEINER'S great tape for the Convention - mainly because of Frank's great scoop in getting a personal interview on tape for the meeting of one of Hollywoods greatest Director's of Photography, LOYAL GRIGGS, ASC - Mr Griggs worked on many great Paramount productions, among them THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, and SHANE, as well as many Bing films - he speaks with affection about Bing to Frank.

John gave me a great article from a recent issue of the Daily Mail - it is titled BOB HOPE'S £62 Million ROAD TO UTUPIA - a terrific article w ich because we are so near pressdate must wait until next time, but I could'nt help thinking after reading that Bing is reckoned to be in the 100Million Dollar class, which works out to nearly £30Million British Pounds that this man could turn a blind eye to all and say blow you, I've had enough - I'm not pretending either that what work Bing does do today he does for the sheer love of it, as Bing says he has various committments to keep going, and that seems fair enough - But he most certainly does'nt need to send tapes to us saying "I'M GRATEFUL FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET MYTWO CENTS WORTH IN ON A PIECE OF TAPE, GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE EVERY NOW AND AGAIN TO SAY HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME IN THE PAST AND TO EXPRESS THE WISH THAT I MAY CONTINUE TO MERIT YOUR APPROVAL AND SUPPORT" (excerpt from Bing's personal greeting to the ICC Convention-May 26th) - I recall too when Jack MaNNers and I talked to Bing at CLARIDGES HOTEL, London in 1960, as we spoke, a lady of obvious distinction passed by saying "Hello Bing, how are you" - Bing replied "Not too bad for an old gaffer maam" then both JACK SHAW and LES PHYTHIAN will recall when we talked with Bing at Cockermouth in 1966 someone said "You're a legend Bing" - Bing replied "Oh' I don't want to be a legend, I'm just one of the boys" .....Indeed he is, and we of this select group are honoured by the constant thought Mr 'C' has for our exsistance.

OVER

BING CROSBY with MARY MARTIN in Paramount's "BIRTH OF THE BLUES", premiered at the Paramount, New York on 10 December 1941. (Brunswick BING 6)

As a tribute to one man "Bing's Hollywood" has probably never before been equalled in size and scope in the whole history of recording.

BING CROSBY and BOB HOPE in Paramount's "ROAD TO MOROCCO" premiered at the Paramount, New York on 11 November 1942. (Brunswick BING 8)

.....continueing......"FRANKLY SPEAKING"

The international record scene is quite fantastic, Keith Hyde, Fred Romary and Jean Paul report great overseas action - England too has'nt been neglected in the great rush by the record companies who have at last realised the terrific potential of 'MR C' - particularly the early sessions - because so many different reports have appeared via people like Leslie Gaylor and Michael Crampton, both qualified Crosbyphial's - I don't intend to repeat here, but I must say how wonderful it has been to see the MUSIC FOR PLEASURE albums PAUL WHITEMAN'S 50th ANNIVERSARY MFP1183 and BING AND LOUIS MFP1209)particularly the latter(getting such showing in British stations and stores - I always maintained they had the set-up and now BING has hit the stores with a bang - HALLMARK's CROSBY CLASSICS is doing very nicely too in places like WOOLWORTH'S and John reports he was able to hear the whole of one side played the other Wednesday morning in the big Newcastle branch, packed store too - I'm grateful to REG BRISTO for bringing the beautiful LANI McINTIRE album on HALLMARK HM539 to my attention - got this one immediately - beautiful, even without Bing. Members who missed the first release of Bing's AROUND THE WORLD on the old Brunswick label, can now remedy this by getting the new MCA re-release on MU1010 - you'll probably have to order this - because now we are back to those deplorable record shops and their insane interest in only the electronic garbage of the hit-parade - although my copy arrived direct from MCA it took me a week and numerous visits to different stores before I got the copies I required for overseas colleaques. Also bringing your BING'S HOLLYWOOD set right up-to-date is the new CBS BING CROSBY IN HOLLYWOOD two album set on the popular Orange label - I have the British CBS worksheet indicating an April release, but early May is now certain, so as you read this issue, the first sets should be reaching the shops - This is quite the most important set to reach us yet - In the next issue we'll filll in via collector sources on further gems coming our way via early Bing material.

I'm sure both new and old members will extend a special welcome to Mr Peacock of Liverpool - Mr Peacock is blind, and I wondered if he would find subscription to Bing magazine worthwhile, but via some interesting telephone calls, he assures me he will - I've asked colleaque Les Phythian to extend our personal good wishes to Mr P'.

My sincere thanks to all those members who took the trouble to write to me since the last issue, whenever possible I've tried to reply, but if I did'nt reply please forgive me, my time schedules these days are all haywire and it's very difficult indeed to cope fully with all the goings on - though it's small consolation, you can rest assured your letters are always read with special interest and filed for the magazine also; A stamped self addressed envelope is always especially appreciated.

FRED REYNOLDS has a happy knack of making you laugh with his writings - his contribution to this issue was no exception, but truth to tell, Fred, I'm still looking for that damn face myself. Despite many suggestions from many sources, I'm still thinking along the early lines suggested by JOHN BASSETT - but I'll keep trying. So there's no need for either you or Reg to go to the nearest Monkery.....

Although DON WOOLLAND could'nt have known it at the time. But when he recommed SAM STERNBERG to the club, he was do an inestimable service - what a tremendous fellow Sam is - almost every week something of interest turns up from ISRAEL, and it might surprise you to learn that you'll probably hear more Bing on Israeli radio than you do on BBC in England - Latest airmail from Sam was sent on April 24th - "American Journal FILMS IN REVIEW will (fairly sure) publish Alvin H Marill's career article on Bing in the July/June 68 issue - recommended by me.....Am also sending by seamail to the ICC this week another inquirey on Bing's life supplied to me by RESEARCH SERVICE of the famous ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA"..... as I said before - what a guy.

Don't forget the new dates of issue - this ten day breathing space between BING and THE GOLDEN YEARS means a little relief at this end. I'm sure you will understand. So until AUGUST 5th, unless we meet at the forthcoming meetings of course, I'll sign off for this time - don't forget to keep those newsy letters flowing in, it's always a very great pleasure to hear from you at any time - best regards to you and to your family - Sincerely, Frank Murphy

Hon President: BING CROSBY

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
incorporating
THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY
founded 1950

Hon Vice-President: LARRY CROSBY

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Don Woolland, 151 Cauldwell Lane, West Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, England.

PUBLICITY OFFICERS:
Bob Roberts, 56 Thorold Road, Chatham, Kent, England.
Brian Pattinson, 103 Ravensworth Road, Dunstan, Co Durham, Northumberland, England

BINGPICS:
John Maughan, I Lauderdale Avenue, Wallsend, Northumberland, England.

MOVIE CONSULTANT:
Les Phythian, 60 Grant Avenue, Wavertree, Liverpool 15, England

REPRESENTATIVES

AUSTRALIA
Keith Hyde, "EL Bingo" 21 Carbeena Parade, West Heidelburg 3081, Victoria.

BRITISH ISLES
Johnny Jones, 15 Victoria Gardens, Ballyhalbert, Co Down, Northern Ireland
Jack Osborne, 11 Dart Hill, Belfast, Northern Ireland.
Michael Crampton, I Langbar Sq, Whinmoor, Leeds 14, England (tele Leeds 642349)
Reg Bristo, 95 Lydstep Flats, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 2QX

SCANDINAVIA
Erik Harrison, c/o Post Office Box 260 Bergen, Norway

CANADA
Jean Paul Frereault, 1541 Iena, Ville de Laval (Chomedy) Port Quebec

EIRE
George O' Reilly, Santa Maria, 143 Shantalla Road, Whitehall, Dublin.

ISRAEL
Samuel Sternberg, Noss-Ziona, P.O.B. 19, Nechemia St 130

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Fred Romary 28-14 157th Str, Flushing 11354 New York.

SECRETARY
Frank Murphy, 23 Lovaine Place, North Shields, Northumberland, England
Tele North Shields 70492

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The foundations of the popular vocal were set down by men like Russ Columbo and Bing Crosby. STEVE MASON carries on the great traditions of these men.

His story "Crooner '68" in this issue.

THE GOLDEN YEARS

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